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Israel

So far authorities believe the cause of the crash of an El Al cargo plane in Amsterdam was engine failure and not terrorism, Israeli media report. The plane was taking off from Amsterdam on its way to Tel Aviv when it apparently lost two engines. The plane crashed into an apartment building—killing an undetermined number of people on the ground and two crew members and a passenger—as the pilot attempted to land. El Al officials and sources in Jerusalem were quoted by Jerusalem radio as saying that the crash was probably caused by engine failure and not by a terrorist attack. Two commissions of inquiry, one from the government and one from El Al, will be investigating the circumstances of the disaster.

Syria

According to "well-informed sources," recent contacts between Damascus, Washington, and Beirut yielded an agreement on a redeployment of Syrian forces "in implementation of the al-Ta'if accord," AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT reports. The sources are reported to have said that "discussions are currently focusing on a date for implementing this step" as "a gesture of goodwill" toward President Bush. The newspaper adds that the sources expected "the redeployment steps" to occur "during the second half of the month."

Pakistan

China offered a 300-megawatt nuclear power plant without setting as a precondition that Pakistan sign the Nonproliferation Treaty, THE NEWS reports. The plant "is likely" to be operational by 1998, the source notes.

Iran

An unidentified source said that the government and the United Arab Emirates "are on the verge of sorting out" the Abu Musa issue, TEHRAN TIMES reports. The source is reported to have said that the issue "was a deep-rooted plot" aimed at "sowing the seeds of discord" between Iran and the other Persian Gulf states.

Lebanon

A bomb went off under "a joint Israeli enemy and agent militia mechanized patrol," at the Bayt Yahun junction in the central sector of southern Lebanon, according to Beirut radio. AFP reports that a Hizballah spokesman claimed the attack and that Israeli and SLA forces retaliated with artillery fire.

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Preliminary Solution' to Libyan Crisis Reported

NC0210212392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2100 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] Cairo, 2 Oct (MENA)—AL-AHRAM reports in its Saturday edition that UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa have reached a preliminary solution [bidayat hall] to the problem concerning the involvement of two Libyan defendants in downing a French airliner over Niger in 1989 and a U.S. airliner over Scotland in 1988.

AL-AHRAM adds that efforts are now focused on resolving Libya's crisis with France and Britain, since the U.S. Administration is occupied with the presidential elections.

Following contacts undertaken by Butrus-Ghali and 'Amr Musa with the parties concerned, Libya and France agreed to send a French investigative judge to Libya to interrogate the two defendants accused of downing the French plane. The French Government has notified the Arab League officially of its consent to a Libyan request to conduct the interrogations and press the charges, if proven, against the Libyan defendants inside Libya, because the French law allows for this and because Libya has reiterated its stand on not handing over the defendants.

Arab League Source on Failure of UAE-Iran Talks

NC3009132692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1249 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Cairo, 30 Sep (MENA)—A responsible Arab League source has expressed regret that the talks between the United Arab Emirates and Iran on the occupied Arab islands concluded without finding a diplomatic solution to the issue. In a statement today, the source added that there had been great hope of the two sides finding a solution through diplomacy and of Iran advancing conclusive proof of its desire to improve its relations with the Arab world by seeking to resolve this issue in the interest of security and stability in the Middle East, particularly in the Arabian Gulf.

Disagreements in New York Ministers' Meeting Noted

PM0210155692 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 30 Sep 92 p 3

[Raghidah Dirgham report: "Arab Foreign Ministers Meet in New York: Boycott To Be Lifted After State of War With Israel Ends"]

[Text] New York—Several Arab delegations have expressed their satisfaction at the atmosphere that dominated the Arab foreign ministers' meeting in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session. Some delegations pointed to "a new Arab era over which no problems linger, based on a call for solidarity," especially vis-a-vis the dispute between the United Arab Emirates and Iran over the islands of Abu Musa, Tunb al-Kubra, and Tunb al-Sughra.

The Arab foreign ministers unanimously agreed that the lifting of the economic boycott imposed on Israel is linked to an end to the state of war with it.

Faruq Qaddumi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the General Assembly and head of the PLO Political Department, submitted a report on the peace process with Israel and the difficulties facing it. He requested "understanding of the Palestinian position and the need to raise the Jerusalem issue at every gathering and on every occasion."

The cordon states' foreign ministers held a meeting before the Arab ministerial council's meeting chaired by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Sources which attended the cordon states' meeting said that Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' criticized Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's statements in which he said that he feared an "Israeli-Syrian agreement at the Palestinians' expense."

The sources added that accusations of "intransigence" were leveled at the Palestinian delegation with regard to the negotiations with Israel. And that the delegation, in reply, wondered: Where are we, between accusations of "intransigence" and accusations of "capitulation"?

The comprehensive Arab ministerial meeting witnessed another disagreement when the ministers were surprised by Kuwait's signing of a draft General Assembly resolution as a sponsoring state, although the ministers had agreed earlier to link acceptance of the draft resolution to particular Israeli positions.

The Arab League had issued a resolution linking the Arab states' willingness to sign a treaty on the nonproliferation of chemical weapons with Israel's accession to the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

The Arab positions at the New York meeting unanimously agreed that signing an agreement on chemical weapons without Israel's signing the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons "exposes pan-Arab security to permanent danger." It was decided to form a committee comprising Morocco, Algeria, and Egypt to inform the states and organizations concerned of the Arab position.

A source which attended the ministerial meeting in New York quoted Minister Musa as saying that he was "amazed at an Arab state's departure from the Arab decision"—a reference to Kuwait's sponsoring of the draft resolution's submission for voting.

The source added that Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal intervened, emphasizing his support for "the formation of a fact-finding committee in order to make a decision in the light of its report."

In response to European attempts demanding a "goodwill" gesture by the Arabs toward Israel in the shape of the lifting of the economic boycott, the Arab foreign ministers unanimously agreed that the Arab position is that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's words "are good, but there have been no deeds so far"; therefore, lifting the boycott is linked to an end to the state of war with Israel.

Palestinian Prisoners Strike Recieves Support

NC0410204892 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] The Arab League has condemned Israel's inhuman practices against Palestinian prisoners in Israel and expressed full solidarity with their just and legitimate demands, which are guaranteed by international conventions. This came in a statement issued today on the occasion of the strike by Palestinians in Israeli prisons.

The League appealed to human right organizations in the world to intervene to force the Israeli authorities to abide by the Fourth Geneva Convention and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and to apply them to Palestinians in Israeli prisons. The Arab League said the continuation of the oppressive Israeli policy conflicts with the peaceful inclinations in the region and constitutes a flagrant violation of international conventions.

Arab League Welcomes Omani-Yemeni Border Agreement

NC0110155492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1535 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] Cairo, 1 Oct (MENA)—A responsible source in the Arab League Secretariat has welcomed today's signing of the agreement on the demarcation of borders between the Sultanate of Oman and Yemen.

The source said that this agreement stresses the two countries' desire to strengthen ties of cooperation and the continued links and good-neighborliness between the two fraternal countries. It added that the agreement also stresses that the Arab nation is capable of resolving its disputes by agreement and dialogue. It expressed hope that efforts will continue to resolve all disputes in the Middle East through peaceful ways and means.

Palestinian Affairs

Iran's Attack on Islands Blamed on Arab 'Collapse'

LD0310231292 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] Iran would not have dared to attack the islands of Abu Musa, and Tunb al-Kubra and Tunb al-Sughra, had it not been absolutely aware that the Arabs are going through times of regression and collapse. Iran has taken advantage of this regression to rekindle old desires and to force its hegemony upon the Arabs. This has not been enough for it, and it started rejoicing at the next target, which is Bahrain, its final aim being the control of the Gulf and the Hormuz Strait in particular. The situation of the Arab nation is becoming clearer day by day, ever since it allowed the destruction of Iraq and its military might, as some supported this and others watched. There is no Arab force left to face up to the new hostile Iranian tide. The Iraqi people were aware since the beginning of the eighties of the covetous Persian stands. It stood up to them and paid with blood and scores of martyrs in a fierce war which lasted eight years. Iraq was victorious, and an end was put to the Persian desires. Iran realized that it could not usurp Arab land and it withdrew into itself. [passage indistinct]

Idea Behind Referendum on Talks Explained

NC0310151892 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 2 Oct 92 pp 1, 11

[Report by Munir Abu-Rizq from Gaza]

[Text] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, has denied that there is an Israeli-Palestinian agreement providing for the release of administrative detainees before the start of the seventh round of the talks. In a statement to our correspondent Abu-Rizq, 'Abd-al- Shafi said that in his capacity as head of the delegation, he has no information about any agreement in this regard. He also said no progress was made during the sixth round, during which the Palestinian delegation did its utmost to find a common ground for progress in the talks. The Israelis, however, adhered to their stand rejecting an elected legislative council.

'Abd-al-Shafi expressed hope that the Israeli delegation will change its stand during the coming round, which will be held on 27 October. He, however, expressed doubt that any progress could be made before the end of the U.S. elections.

'Abd-al-Shafi explained that the Palestinian delegation did not make any concessions regarding the interim period and the final status of the occupied Palestinian territories. He added that the delegation is not negotiating over autonomy [hukm dhati], as the opposition is propagating, but on the establishment of an interim government [hukm intiqali] for an interim period preliminary to the second phase of the talks, which will determine the final status [of the Palestinian territories].

On the idea of a referendum, 'Abd-al-Shafi said that what he has in mind is the idea of holding a referendum on any issue over which there are differences of views within the leaderships or among the people. This specifically applies to the negotiating process. There are voices inside the leadership and among the people saying this process should not continue, while other voices favor the continuation of the talks. In the event this issue is not settled, the people must have the final say.

'Abd-al-Shafi said that in principle, the political leadership represented by the PLO under the leadership of brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] can settle these differences. But if the political leadership is divided between supporters, opponents, and those with reservations, and if such differences threaten to shatter the unity of the Palestinian society, then a referendum is necessary to determine the opinion of the Palestinian people.

On the possibility of holding such a referendum under occupation, 'Abd-al-Shafi said: In principle, all this is talk. In the event a green light is given for this referendum, special measures and procedures will be adopted.

On the steps the Palestinian delegation will take to support the detainees who are on hunger strike, 'Abd-al-Shafi said the delegation always places on the negotiating table the issue of human rights, including the fate of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons. This issue always is on the agenda. The delegation has several stands which it will convey to the brother detainees. 'Abd- al-Shafi asked Israel to respect the principles of human rights in general, including the inhuman and deteriorating conditions inside prisons and detention camps. He also called on Israel to provide the detainees with their basic needs.

PLO's Abu-Mazin Rejects Compromise on Autonomy

PM0210152692 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 30 Sep 92 p 3

[Mustafa Abu-Harun report: "Abu-Mazin: No Compromise in Negotiations, and No Backtracking on Autonomy With All Its Powers"]

[Excerpts] Cairo—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) has expressed his confidence that "no change will occur in U.S. policy toward the Middle East and the peace process with the change of the present U.S. Administration." He said that "U.S. policy in the region is fixed, regardless of the person present in the White House."

In a statement to AL-HAYAH in Cairo yesterday he added that the Palestinian request for Egypt's intervention with the United States to give an impetus to the negotiations with Israel "does not mean mediation.... The Palestinians are asking the Egyptians to talk to the U.S. Administration and to add their voice to ours."

He said that "something new did occur in the sixth round of the bilateral Arab-Israeli negotiations, namely the extensive and important unofficial negotiations with Israeli negotiators, as it was possible to talk with them without restrictions, conditions, or control. There was a chance for acquaintance away from formalities." [passage omitted]

He stressed the "rejection of compromises" with regard to the transitional phase in the occupied territories. He said, "we want the transitional autonomy with all its constituents, beginnings and ends, powers, and ramifications." He emphasized the importance of the role of the co-sponsors of the peace conference. He said, "If they announced that they would intervene when the wheel stops moving, they have to push it, because it has not moved so far." He played down the fears about a separate Syrian-Israeli agreement. He saw that "it is no longer important that one course gains a little bit of ground more than another as long as all parties have agreed on the final and comprehensive solution at the same time."

He pointed out that there were no signs of a resumption of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. He denied the existence of Russian mediation between the Palestinian and Israeli sides. He emphasized that Russia "wants to play an active role in the negotiations and summoned those concerned, whether Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', or Palestinian officials."

Algeria

'Intense Gunfire' Near Government Palace 4 Oct

NC0510065292 Paris AFP in English 2351 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] Algiers, Oct 5 (AFP)—Intense gunfire erupted in central Algiers near the government palace late Sunday amid cries of Allahu Akbar (God is great), the rallying cry of the Islamic fundamentalists.

The firing was concentrated in the area round the government palace and the central post office.

Riot police were seen apparently trying to block the path of a vehicle but no information was available on the reasons for the gunfire.

The few people on the streets in the area ran in panic for cover but traffic continued and police did not seal off the area.

The firing began at 22:45 hours (21:45 GMT) and was still going on an hour later.

The shooting came three days after four members of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) admitted on television that they had planned the bomb explosion which killed nine people and injured more than a 100 at Algiers airport on August 26.

One of the four was the former chief of staff of FIS leader Abassi Madani.

It also came the day after Algerian authorities introduced stiff anti-terrorist legislation setting up special courts to deal with "terrorism and subversion".

Since February 9 when a state of emergency was imposed after an army takeover, about 200 members of the security forces have been killed in terrorist attacks attributed to Islamic militants.

Polisario Threatens 'Guerrilla War' on Morocco

NC0510070692 Paris AFP in English 2354 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] Algiers, Oct 5 (AFP)—The Algiers-based Polisario Front threatened Sunday to resume its guerrilla war against Morocco in the Western Sahara if Rabat "refuses to organise a referendum on self-determination" in the former Spanish colony.

"If the king of Morocco refuses the Sahrawi people the organisation of a referendum on self-determination as stipulated in the United Nations peace plan, the Polisario Front will resume the armed struggle", the front's foreign affairs spokesman Salem Ould Salek told a press conference.

Ould Salek accused Morocco of leading the U.N. plan "into a dead-end" and called on the international community to apply pressure to make Rabat implement the plan.

The organisation of the referendum has been held up by disagreement between Rabat and the Polisario Front over who should be allowed to vote. The front wants an electoral roll based on the last Spanish census of 1974, while Rabat is arguing for a wider eligibility that would include some Moroccan nationals.

The Polisario Front is seeking self-determination for the colony that Spain abandoned in 1975, while Morocco claims the territory as part of a former "Greater Morocco". Under a U.N. plan which brought a ceasefire in September 1991 to end 16 years of fighting, a referendum had been scheduled for January 1992.

New Anti-Terrorism Decree Has Tougher Sentences

LD0410141292 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] [No dateline as received]—Decree number 2/92, dated 30 September 1992, on the fight against sabotage and terrorism, which has been published in the official gazette, considers any infringement aiming at harming the state's security and its territorial integrity as well as the stability and normal functioning of the state's institutions as an act of sabotage and terrorism.

The decree stipulates in its first clause that all acts committed against individuals with the aim of jeopardizing their life, security and property, as well as obstructing the free movement in public roads and areas or against public or private property and equipment, or against symbols of the Republic, or obstructing the work of public authorities or the freedom of worship and public liberties shall be considered as acts of sabotage or terrorism.

Anyone forming a group or an organization whose activities fall under the definition of the aforementioned infringements may receive a prison term between 10 and 20 years; the same applies to anyone else who joins such organizations with full knowledge of their aims.

Anybody who encourages the acts mentioned in the first article, including anyone who reprints or re-diffuses documents or recordings, will be punished with a five- to 10-year imprisonment and a fine ranging from 10,000 to 500,000 Algerian dinars.

In its 6th article, the decree stipulates that any Algerian who enlists abroad in an armed association, group or organization, regardless of its form or name, which is known for its terrorist activities, even if these activities are not directed against Algeria, will be punished with 10 to 20 years imprisonment and a fine ranging from 10,000 to 50,000 Algerian dinars.

If these acts, which are explained above, aim at harming the interests of Algeria, the punishment will thus be life imprisonment.

Anyone who is caught in possession of weapons, ammunition or explosives, manufactures them or trade in them without permission from competent authorities will be punished by a prison term ranging between 10 and 20 years and a fine between 100,000 and 1,000,000 Algerian dinars. Anyone who is caught making cold steel weapons will be punished by a prison term raging between five and 10 years and a fine of between 10,000 and 100,000 dinars.

The decree also makes punishments, which are stipulated in the current law in force, more severe: Capital punishment will replace current life imprisonment; life imprisonment will replace current 10- to 20-year prison terms; and prison terms between 10 and 20 years will replace the current five- to 10-years. Punishment will be double for any other crime.

Procedures will be speeded up concerning interrogation and trial of those accused of sabotage and terrorist crimes which fall within the competence of the three courts which will be set up in this respect in accordance with the decree relating to combating sabotage and terrorism. This decree was published in the official gazette of 1 October.

The provision No. 26 says that the investigating magistrate [word indistinct] and that the interrogation chamber should issue a decision to refer the case for trial within one month from the date it is has been notified. In order to deal with cases that are related to terrorist crimes the legislator is the one to decide in the cases which are referred to the Judicial Council and that this must take place during the month which follows the trial decision to the [words indistinct] investigating judge.

The decisions that are issued by the special Judicial Council can be appealed against. The Supreme Court will judge the matter within two months from the date of notification. In the event of the decisions being annulled, the cases are referred once again to the special Judicial Council which consists of another judicial body.

The executive decree on combating sabotage and terrorism calls for the creation of three special judicial councils. The headquarters of these councils and their regional jurisdiction will be defined by organization. The special judicial council is composed of five judges, including a president and four assistants.

The tasks of the prosecutor in the special Judicial Council will be done by a public prosecutor to be appointed from among the judges of the public prosecution; he will be assisted by one or more prosecutors. An investigation chamber or more than one chamber is to be set up and an investigation scrutiny chamber or more than one chamber is also to be set up.

Government Council Examines Finance Bill

LD0410162192 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] The Government Council met today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Belaid Abdessalam. It heard a report presented by the minister delegate to the treasury about the draft complementary financial bill for 1992, which was submitted by the chairman of the Higher State Council to be studied by the National Consultative Council.

The Government Council approved the amended draft of this bill in light of the comments of the National Consultative Council with the aim of presenting it for the assessment of the chairman of the Higher State Council.

The main measures of the draft bill are relating to balancing the budget, the financial cleansing of public enterprises, and balancing the subsidies fund that finances the family support activities and supports the prices of the basic and raw materials.

Among the tax measures contained in the complementary financial bill for 1992, we mention in particular those relating to the combat of tax violations, those aiming at encouraging owners to rent their houses, the measures aimed at reducing the rate of the VAT on books, production, movie production, the amendment and reduction of tax on gross income of artists and other cultural producers, and extending the measures governing the financing of sport advertising to cultural advertising.

In light of the examination of the draft complementary financial bill, the head of the government issued instructions to carefully study the measures of an economic and social nature that are of a fundamental nature to the implementation of the government program. These measures will be taken care of within the framework of the financial bill for 1993 or through special provisions.

The Government Council also examined proposals relating to preparations for setting up a qualified body to work as a general assembly for Contribution Funds and also the boards of directors for the Contribution Funds as a prelude to their examination by the Council of Ministers. The Government Council, in conclusion, examined some individual decisions.

Egypt

Mubarak Phones Saudi, Qatari Leaders on Dispute

NC0210190292 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1838 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] As part of consultations to enhance Arab fraternity and deepen understanding among brothers, President Husni Mubarak this afternoon held several telephone conversations with His Majesty King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques; His

Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar; and his highness the Qatari heir apparent to contain the emergency situation on the border between the two fraternal countries and to preserve the higher Arab interests.

Envoy Clarifies Musa's Remarks to American Daily

NC0210180992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1655 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] Washington, 2 Oct (MENA)—Egyptian Ambassador to the United States Ahmad Mahir clarified the truth about the meeting in Washington between Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and THE WASHINGTON POST editorial staff and the statement that the paper attributed to Musa. Commenting about reports by POST reporters about the possibility of holding a high-level Syrian-Israeli meeting, Ambassador Mahir pointed out that the current Israeli position rejecting commitment to complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights and even the mere mention of the word withdrawal—at a time when the Syrian party affirms its preparedness to exchange total peace for total withdrawal—makes it difficult to conceive of changing the current level of the negotiations.

Ambassador Mahir said that during his meeting with the POST's editorial staff, Foreign Minister Musa said that if Israel adopts a different position, this would open the way for other meetings and that Egypt would be ready to help arrange them. Mahir said: "We hope that the next round of negotiations will be fruitful and enable the parties to reach agreements that respond to the genuine Arab desire declared inside and outside the meetings hall to establish a just and comprehensive peace and a similar Israeli position.

Musa Returns From UN General Assembly 3 Oct

NC0310162592 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo from New York this afternoon. In an arrival statement, his excellency said that Egypt played a major role in attempting to resolve the Libyan-Western crisis, noting that President Mubarak's role is recognized and appreciated. He said: We have made considerable progress in alleviating the situation and in working out a basis for an acceptable solution in accordance with the UN resolution.

In his statement, the foreign minister pointed out that the UN secretary general will meet with the Libyan foreign secretary the day after tomorrow regarding the next step. He said his talks with the Libyan foreign secretary dealt with this topic. He noted that sending a French judge to Libya concerns the French side of the problem, leaving the other [U.S. and UK] side of the problem unresolved.

To a question about convening a Syrian-Israeli meeting, the foreign minister said Syria has expressed its readiness to reach a comprehensive peace agreement in return for complete peace [as heard]. Israel must clarify its position on this issue, because this would lead to real progress, Musa added. He said that the possibility of a Syrian-Israeli meeting depends on progress in the talks. This progress depends on the Syrian [as heard] position and its readiness to agree to achieving a comprehensive peace in return for complete withdrawal.

Musa said Egypt is working to achieve a comprehensive settlement concerning the Golan Heights, West Bank, Gaza, and all other fronts, including Lebanon and the Jordanian-Palestinian aspect. He stressed the importance of achieving progress on all fronts and said that if progress is achieved on one front, similar progress must be achieved on another. He affirmed that progress on all fronts is not impossible now; it has become a clear-cut matter, and it must be understood by all sides, particularly Israel.

The foreign minister said Egypt is following closely the dispute between Saudi Arabia and Qatar and that it hopes Arab differences will not affect Arab solidarity, because the Arab position cannot endure further disagreements.

Musa said there are clear conditions for the Israeli loan guarantees, stressing that the issue of halting settlement building is extremely important and a main factor in the peace process, because continuing the settlements will harm this process. He said halting settlement building, as the Rabin government has declared, is a step toward stopping all settlement activities.

Musa said the French foreign minister's visit to Egypt tomorrow is significant in view of France's role and its interest in the peace process. He expressed hope that fruitful results will be achieved during the visit to serve the peace process.

Musa said he met with U.S. Administration officials and the foreign ministers who participated in the UN General Assembly's [UNGA] session. His talks centered on the peace process and international issues. Musa said he will submit a comprehensive report to President Mubarak about the outcome of his talks and meetings.

French Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit 4 Oct

NC0410081992 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas arrived in Cairo this morning on a brief visit, during which he will meet with President Husni Mubarak. He will also hold talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa about the situation in the Middle East.

Djibouti President Gouled Hassan, who left Cairo today, met with the French Foreign Minister at the VIP lounge at Cairo airport. The two discussed the situation in the Horn of Africa and bilateral relations.

Consults With Mubarak on Bilateral Ties

NC0410120692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1127 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] Cairo, 4 Oct (MENA)—Following his meeting with President Husni Mubarak today, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said he stopped over in Egypt to consult on important international issues of interest to the two countries. He thanked President Mubarak for meeting with him today within the framework of his current tour of the Middle East.

Dumas said his talks with President Mubarak dealt with bilateral relations, with particular emphasis on trade ties. He noted that the Egyptian economy is strong.

Dumas said his talks with President Mubarak also covered important international issues, mainly the issue of peace in the region, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the multilateral talks. He said they exchanged views about the latest developments in the Arab-Israeli talks, adding that the two countries feel cautious optimism over the course of the negotiations. He noted that there is harmony between Egypt's and France's position on this subject.

About his recent visit to Syria and how France believes the differences between Syria and Israel can be removed, Dumas said that these differences can be solved by deepening the discussions and interpretations at the conference held for this purpose. Asked whether Syria will attend the multilateral talks in Paris, Dumas said France is preparing to hold this conference in Paris on 28 October. France's role is confined to that of being a host state. As for Syria, it has taken a principled position regarding this subject since the Madrid conference. Many elements have to be accommodated before this principled position can be changed.

Asked about his view of Egypt's declaration that Syria's position on the peace talks is positive and that Egypt expects something from the Israeli side, Dumas said: During Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' visit to Paris, I noticed a clear desire to achieve progress in the peace process. Similarly, I felt in Damascus a clear desire in this direction.

Dumas said he stressed to President Mubarak during their meeting today that both Israel and Syria have shown a desire to achieve progress in the peace talks.

Asked about the date of French President Francois Mitterrand's next visit to the Middle East, Dumas said President Mitterrand always comes to the Middle East, and always comes to Egypt. He finds great happiness in visiting the region. As for the date of the visit, this is up to President Mitterrand.

About his talks with Djibouti President Gouled Hassan before the latter's departure from Cairo this morning, Dumas said: We discussed all the problems facing Djibouti. President Gouled has officially been invited to visit France. President Mitterrand will meet with him in late October or early November.

Discusses International Issues With Musa

NC0410141492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1312 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] Cairo, 14 Oct (MENA)—The session of Egyptian-French talks started this afternoon at the Foreign Ministry chaired by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.

Both sides discussed international issues of mutual interest, the situation in the Middle East in light of efforts to advance the peace process, and relations between the two countries in various fields.

After his talks with 'Amr Musa, Roland Dumas stated that they discussed all aspects of the Middle East peace process, the ideas proposed, and the contacts that have taken place in this regard.

He said: We discussed the development of the Arab-Israeli multilateral and bilateral talks while concentrating on the Palestine question.

He added that they also comprehensively evaluated the problems in Sudan, Somalia, and the Gulf region.

Dumas continued: We also discussed bilateral relations between Egypt and France, as well as our joint action within the United Nations to impose sanctions on the current human rights' violations in Yugoslavia.

Dumas clarified that his discussions with 'Amr Musa were a continuation of discussions held with President Husni Mubarak earlier today.

Dumas said their exchange of viewpoints today provided them with the opportunity to find out that they hold identical views on all problems.

He added that regarding their analysis of the Middle East problem, they speculated on certain possibilities and expectations within the framework of the recent progress of events.

Dumas affirmed anew the complete Egyptian-French agreement in this regard. He pointed out that the two countries are increasing their efforts to push the peace process forward.

About whether he will hold contacts with the Palestinians, Dumas said that although his visit to Israel will be short, he will try to meet with the Palestinians. He added: I will see whether I will have the time to meet with them there.

Dumas added that he will hold a series of meetings with Palestinian representatives in Paris, especially with the head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks.

Responding to a question about the fact that a French judge has been appointed to investigate the issue of the two Libyans suspected of downing a French civilian airliner over Niger, Roland Dumas said the French judiciary is perfectly independent, and one cannot discuss its role. The French Government, however, has to facilitate its task.

Musa was asked about the issue of Syrian participation in the multilateral talks and whether France and Egypt are applying pressure on Syria to participate. He said: There is no pressure, but there are contacts. Today, Mr. Roland Dumas is traveling to Israel, and he will discuss with officials there ways of pushing the peace process forward.

Musa added: Our objective is to encourage the peace process. We are doing our utmost to realize this objective.

Answering another question, Musa affirmed Egypt's support for the agreement over ending the civil war in Mozambique. He expressed his congratulations to the fraternal people of Mozambique for reaching such an agreement.

Speaks of 'Joint Initiative' on Bosnia

NC0410135392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1313 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] Cairo, 4 Oct (MENA)—French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said after talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today that Egypt and France are about to launch a new joint initiative on the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Dumas added: We are deeply concerned with the situation there, and we asked the UN secretary general to hold an international inquiry about the recent incidents to identify the criminals responsible.

In a similar statement, Musa said Egypt is against the ethnic cleansing in Bosnia-Hercegovina. Such measures remind us of Nazi practices and racial discrimination, which are unacceptable and which we stand firmly against.

Musa added: We hope that the policy of new Yugoslavia will move in the right direction and that the country will renounce support for any practices that may harm the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Bosnia-Hercegovina. If the Yugoslav prime minister succeeds in achieving this, then we will welcome it.

Departs for Israel

NC0410124892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] Cairo, 4 Oct (MENA)—French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas left Cairo for Israel this afternoon following a brief visit to Egypt, during which he met with by President Husni Mubarak.

Dumas was seen off at the airport by Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Isma'il Mubarak.

Dumas' visit to Egypt was part of a tour that took him to Damascus.

Tantawi Cited on Armed Forces' Capability

NC0410070892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] Cairo, 4 Oct (MENA)—Defense Minister General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi said that the Egyptian Armed Forces's capability to defend Egypt and Arab national security has increased, compared with what it was during the October war. In an interview with the newspaper AL-AKHBAR today, he said the Egyptian Armed Forces are prepared to meet the defense requirements of any fraternal Arab country that is a member of the Arab League. He affirmed the importance of Arab solidarity and cooperation to achieve stability and national security, something that the glorious October war has proved. He said that the process of arming our Armed Forces has reached a high level and is based on quality. There is also great emphasis on the armaments industry.

Tantawi said Egypt produces modern weapons from A to Z. He said that the big states recognize the efficiency and capability of the Egyptian Armed Forces and the Egyptian brains that work in this field. As an example, he said an advanced country has adopted the command and control system that Egypt proposed to an international armaments company.

About the choice of Egypt to participate in UN peacekeeping forces, Tantawi said that there is regional and international appreciation of Egypt's role and the high-caliber training of Egyptian forces, which is a source of pride for Egypt.

Tantawi said in the light of the permanent peace, which has become one of the characteristics of the current international changes, it is necessary to maintain a modern national force capable of defending security and stability.

Libya

Egypt's Sidqi, Delegation Continue Visit 2 Oct

Sidqi Opens Egyptian Office in Tripoli

LD0210191292 Tripoli JANA in English 1658 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] Tripoli, Al Timur 2, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—The prime minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt Dr. 'Atif Sidqi saluted the leader of the great Al Fatah revolution and the president of the Arab Republic of Egypt Husni Mubarak for their unionist efforts towards the entrenchement and consolidation of eternal relations between the Arab people of the Great Jamahiriya and Egypt.

In a declaration to JANA's correspondent following the inauguration of the new building of the Arab Republics Egypt's [as received] office for following-up relations to the Great Jamahiriya, Sidqi said "I don't like to call this building of Egypt to Libya or its staff as members of an embassy but they are point of liaison between the two sisters—Egypt and Libya".

He added "My presence here today in the company of the secretary of the General People's Committee and a number of secretaries of the General People's Committee to the Great Jamahiriya to open this new building is a further proof of deep fraternal relations between the two brotherly peoples".

Also the secretary of the General People's Committee made a statement to JANA saying "Relations between the same Arab people in Libya and Egypt could not be expressed by an office or an embassy but they are historical relations which will be permanent and eternal.

He pointed out that the opening of this office is just to facilitate some daily business. He asserted "We are looking forward to the day where they will be no need for such offices by realizing the political framework for our really existing social and historical unity.

The secretary of the General People's Committee concluded his declaration by saying "Our choice of this office at this site and this very building expresses the extent of our respect for our brotherly people in Egypt and the high degree of esteem they enjoy amongst us.

Al-Badri, Egyptian Counterpart Meet

LD0310204292 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1755 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] Tripoli, 3 Oct (JANA)— Brother 'Abdallah Salim al-Badri, the Great Jamahiriyah's secretary of the General People's Committee for Oil, met with Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi, Egypt's oil and mineral resources minister, in Tripoli at midday today. After the meeting, the following news release was issued:

On the sidelines of the meetings of the third session of the higher joint Arab Libyan-Egyptian Committee for Cooperation, which are being held in Tripoli, a meeting took place today, 3 October, between Brother al-Badri and Brother al-Banbi. During the talks, they reviewed the situation in the international oil market following the recent OPEC ministerial committee meeting.

They expressed support for this committee's efforts, aimed at consolidating the oil market and preserving the minimum bench mark of $21 per barrel for the OPEC crude oil basket. They urged all producers and consumers to work for the stability and consolidation of the oil market in such a way as to serve the interests of all parties and help in bringing about economic development to all countries in the world.

They also reviewed measures by a number of consuming countries to impose a carbon tax. They expressed doubts about the reports concerning the reasons for the deterioration in the environment and global warming; they called for international efforts to find the real reasons and suitable solutions for these phenomena. They urged countries that are about to impose a carbon tax to refrain from doing so, because oil products are already heavily taxed. Any further taxation would lead to discrimination against the use of oil and encourage a switch to alternative energies, particularly nuclear energy, without due consideration for safety and the effect of such a switch on the social, economic, and technical development of Third World countries in general, and oil producing countries in particular.

Sidqi Meets With al-Qadhdhafi 3 Oct

LD0310222592 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Excerpt] Tripoli 3 Oct (JANA)—Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi met with the brother leader of the revolution. Following the meeting, which was attended by the Egyptian ministerial delegation participating in the third session of the higher joint Arab Libyan-Egyptian Committee for Cooperation, Prime Minister Sidqi made a statement in which he said:

During our meeting with the brother leader of the revolution, we found a very advanced concept of all the measures that we should take, as well as what our aspirations should be. Such an advanced concept should give rise to appreciation and pride on our part. We hope that this long-term pan-Arab conception will be implemented somehow and that brother leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's proposals will be understood in other Arab countries.

Dr. Sidqi added: As members of the higher committee of the Great Jamahiriyah and Egypt, we will take the directives of the brother leader of the revolution into consideration at this stage.

Dr. Sidqi pointed out that, in addition to the pan-Arab ideas and concepts in the brother leader's assertions, a number of points, outside the pan-Arab framework, were raised in order to find solutions to the problems of the future, particularly that of water. We hope that a peaceful solution will be found, he said; the problem of water is not only a problem particular to our region but a world problem in which everyone is interested. [passage omitted]

Meetings End; Programs Concluded

LD0510101292 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Excerpt] After three days, the joint Arab Libyan-Egyptian Committee for Cooperation concluded a series of meetings, during which a number of programs were concluded for strengthening the economy and providing for the needs of citizens in both the Great Jamahiriyah and Egypt.

This morning, the secretary of the General People's Committee and Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi signed the minutes. The minutes covered strengthening, coordinating, and continuing cooperation and integration in the fields of economics; commerce; agriculture; banking; water resources; marine resources; industry; education; electricity; energy; technical cooperation; housing; construction; oil; transport services; telecommunications; higher education; scientific research; health; training; information and culture; youth and sport; and the judiciary and law. [passage omitted]

Sidqi, Others Depart Tripoli 4 Oct

LD0410203592 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 4 Oct (JANA)— Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi left Tripoli this afternoon accompanied by members of his government. [passage omitted]

Mauritania

Curfew Imposed After Anti-Devaluation Protests

AB0410160192 Paris AFP in French 1516 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] Nouakchott, 4 Oct (AFP)—The authorities have imposed a curfew in Nouakchott following demonstrations this morning in the Mauritanian capital, protesting the devaluation of the ouguiya, the national currency, by nearly 42 percent, an official source disclosed. Until further notice, the curfew hours will run from 1900 to 0600 GMT.

The demonstrators gathered near the central market and began to throw stones to show their disapproval of the devaluation which forced the prices of essential commodities up by 40 percent. The police, who were later joined by anti-riot forces, stepped in and dispersed the demonstrators with tear gas, it was noted. Calm returned to Nouakchott by early afternoon.

Kuwait

Foreign Minister: Saudi-Qatar Dispute 'Contained'

NC0510084192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0701 GMT 5 Oct 92

[Text] Kuwait, 5 Oct (MENA)—Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has announced that the Saudi-Qatari border crisis has been contained. He said agreement has been reached to refrain from escalating the dispute, to return to the 1965 border agreement between the two countries, and to form a committee to delineate their common border.

In an exclusive statement to Egyptian journalists visiting Kuwait, Shaykh Salim al-Sabah commented on Iran's offer to sign a joint defense agreement with Qatar. He said this behavior is to be expected of Iran because it wants to have a role in most Gulf issues. He noted, however, that the Qataris know the Iranian motive behind the offer.

He said the Saudi-Qatari dispute does not necessitate the formation of a judicial committee, as set out in Clause Six of the Gulf Cooperation Council Charter.

On Iran's occupation of Abu Musa and other islands, Shaykh Salim al-Sabah said Iran has obvious regional ambitions illustrated by its occupation of Abu Musa, Tunb al-Kubra, and Tunb al-Sughra. He pointed out that the meeting of the Damascus Declaration signatories in Doha urged Iran to respect its international agreements and its neighbors' legitimate rights.

The Kuwaiti foreign minister affirmed that the next stage will witness massive UN intervention in the Iran-United Arab Emirates dispute, especially with the two sides failing to find a solution during their recent meeting in Abu Dhabi.

Shaykh Salim al-Sabah said that the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration countries agreed to meet again next March to discuss all the relevant issues. Expressing satisfaction with the results of previous meetings, the Kuwaiti foreign minister denied that Kuwait or the other Gulf countries have reservations about military cooperation among the Declaration's signatories.

He stressed Kuwait's Arab character, declaring: We are Arabs and will remain so forever. He noted, however, that the Kuwaitis cannot forget the position adopted by the countries that supported Iraq's aggression against Kuwait. He pointed out that they will also not forget those who supported them.

The Kuwaiti foreign minister emphasized that Kuwait rejects any partition of Iraq and is committed to that country's unity. He said it is difficult to deal with the current Iraqi regime, but Kuwait might accept dealing with Iraq if the ruling regime is changed. He explained that Kuwait has not closed the door on cooperation with its neighbors.

He said the Kuwaiti Government resorted to security agreements with the United States, Britain, and France when it discovered that this was the people's wish, but rejected the Kuwaiti National Council's demand to conclude 100-year agreements, preferring to sign 10-year agreements that consider only possible international changes.

Prime Minister Interviewed on Upcoming Elections

LD0410111792 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Interview with Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti prime minister and heir apparent, by Dr. 'Abdallah al-Shayji, acting head of the Department of Political Sciences at the University of Kuwait; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Al-Shayji] In the name of God the merciful and compassionate. In the framework of the preparations for the election of the forthcoming National Council, the Department of Political Sciences at the University of Kuwait prepared a number of conferences and lectures in the form of constructive dialogues between the candidates and the voters themselves. [passage omitted]

As a coordinator of this idea, and after having listened to varying viewpoints, I felt that scientific objectivity compels us to listen to clarifications from the government, which we will all listen to, including those who listened to or participated in the dialogue that has taken place. We addressed this wish to His Highness the prime minister, so this meeting, through which we aim to convey everything with all frankness, will be the mouthpiece of those (?constituencies) that wonder, accuse, and criticize, and so at the same time His Highness could give the government's explanations about those issues.

Truth compels me to explain to the dear listener and viewer that His Highness expressed reservation at the beginning in fear that his clarifications would be misinterpreted in some way, and we express the proviso that they do not have any influence on the free course of anything related to the elections. [passage omitted]

First of all, we welcome His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister, and we start our questions with the priorities of the government and its orientations and plans for the future.

[Al-Sabah] In the name of God the merciful and compassionate. Peace, prayers, and benediction be upon our Master Prophet Muhammad—the last of all prophets and noblest among them—his family, and companions. I would like at the beginning of this meeting—to be precise, this dialogue—to express my happiness at the opportunity to take part in the dialogue that has been taking place these days in various constituencies. I would like to add that such a dialogue has been an opportunity for a number of things to come up, most important of which is the brother citizens' interest in all daily issues and problems. The dialogue has furthermore shown the brother citizens' efforts to reach a formula or formulas to resolve such issues and such problems.

[Al-Shayji] Your Highness is quite aware that a sense of security is very important to Kuwaiti citizens when they feel their long-term security and stability is threatened, particularly following the Iraqi regime's stubbornness and its detention of hundreds of Kuwaiti prisoners. What are, in Your Highness' opinion, the things that ought to be done in order to safeguard Kuwait's security and prevent a repetition of the events of 2 August [1990]? And what are the best means of protecting Kuwait's security, independence, and stability and guaranteeing the release of prisoners and hostages on Iraqi gallows?

[Al-Sabah] The answers to such a question can be summarized as follows: It is a mistake to suggest that the citizen feels insecure at the moment. I mean, as an official, just after the liberation there had been some individual acts, but once the security authorities took over everyone felt secure and safe. However, there were crimes before the occupation; they were ordinary crimes that could take place in Kuwait or anywhere in the world.

Nevertheless, what is required of us today is to face up to the schemes of the head of the ruling regime in Baghdad. I say here that the Kuwaiti people's resilience lies in the unity of their words, deeds, and ranks as well as in the unity of their objectives. I had to stress here these factors because, as I have repeatedly asserted, our force lies in our cohesion, in our backing of each other, and in our agreement.

However, some people have tried, during the last years, to attack Kuwait, but Kuwaitis, thanks to their cooperation and the unity of their stance, mutual backing, and understanding, have managed, thanks be to God, to defeat such aggression, preserving Kuwait in the process.

Today's generation should shoulder the responsibility of protecting our country's security and stability.

As far as our cooperation with fraternal and friendly countries in order to protect Kuwait, I can reply to your question saying that our relations with our brothers and friends are continuing; they are fully ready to cooperate with our armed forces to repulse any aggression against Kuwait today or in the future.

The second part of your question on the fate of prisoners is an issue and problem that is our main preoccupation, be it at the official level or in the streets. Our contacts and endeavors with fraternal and friendly countries are continuing in order to bring pressure to bear upon the head of the ruling regime in Baghdad to release our sons who are kept prisoner or hostage on the gallows of Baghdad.

Our contacts are continuing with international organizations, like Amnesty International and the Red Cross. Every one of them has promised to be interested in continuing efforts to secure the release of Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq.

In reply to the [other] question, I say in my own name and in the name of my brother members of the government that we are quite prepared to open this file about which many people have been talking at the election rallies. Perhaps opening the file will explain to the brother citizens all that happened before the Iraqi aggression and what causes there were to encourage the Iraqi regime to mount the treacherous aggression against Kuwait.

Whenever the time is right—and there are some people who believe there is a need to open the file now, as I said—I repeat: the government will not stand in the way of opening the file. But as I said, there is a saying: People who live in glass houses should not throw stones. There is another saying: Let those who are without sin cast the first stone.

[Al-Shayji] Your Highness, some people have attributed the flight of capital abroad and the difficulties of the economy—particularly the private sector and the recession—to the government's statements and to its repeated warnings concerning external security and the continuing designs of the enemy on us. The second part of the question is: There is criticism that internal security has not been enjoying sufficient stability in Kuwait. What is your answer to these two questions?

[Al-Sabah] First, with regard to the flight of capital abroad, we all know that in Kuwait we enjoy a free economy. There are no restrictions that prevent any citizen who wishes to invest his capital in any country. For example, a citizen has some money deposited in a bank in Kuwait; he hears that the interest rate for the dollar has increased, it is his right to buy dollars and invest them abroad. This is one of the causes. But to link the question of economic recession or the flight of capital to my statements, I have said and I say again now and I will say it in the future that we have to be extremely vigilant, cautious, and weary and that we must follow the movements and the activity of the head of the ruling regime in Baghdad.

My warnings and caution were right. Why some people concentrate their talk only on my statements and forget what the ruler of Baghdad said more than once and on more than one occasion that Kuwait is still considered part of Iraq. We knew and we had information from sources in which we had complete confidence saying that Iraq's Saddam still works day and night to prepare and execute what goes on in his head.

[Al-Shayji] There are some demands by political currents at election (?rallies) that there is a need to open the 2 August file and that a parliamentary committee must be formed to investigate the cause and the mistakes that led to the invasion. Does the government intend to oppose the opening of the file of the crisis—the 2 August file—and if the government is going to cooperate and open the file, what are the steps to be taken to ensure that the Assembly will not plunge into the 2 August file and forget the need to concentrate on the future?

[Al-Sabah] The picture and the strategy might change, however, we must always know that this man and this enemy is still planning and working day and night to spoil security and achieve his aims.

[Al-Shayji] Your Highness, there are now demands in the constituencies regarding control of public money and limiting and reducing spending, in addition to questions about the wisdom and awareness of foreign investments as well as knowledge of investments. What is the reply of Your Highness to these questions?

[Al-Sabah] I have personally heard a lot of talk in constituencies on wasting public funds without any accounting or control. I would like to answer this question clearly and I would say treacherous Iraqi aggression. Yes, we have helped the states that sent their sons to fight the Iraqi forces and expel them from Kuwait. We also helped the states that backed directly or indirectly the liberation of Kuwait. We will not be stingy, at present or in the future, when it comes to Kuwait's cause.

As for the second part, on investments, I will say that there is a committee that was set up by the brother finance minister, and he asked this committee to investigate in detail the reasons that have led to some losses, such as what happened in Spain. I hope this complete and comprehensive report will be submitted to the finance minister in the next few days.

[Al-Shayji] Your Highness, there are accusations and criticisms addressed to the government that it might approve an amendment to the Constitution and obtain more power for the executive branch at the expense of the legislative branch in the upcoming National Council. What is your reply to these accusations?

[Al-Sabah] These accusations or these conclusions are wrong, it is like (?misjudging) intentions. The government has no intention or inclination to amend the Constitution. I will say, however, with all honesty that if first, the interest of the homeland and the citizens required it, and second, if the constitutional authorities reach the conviction that the time has come to revise the Constitution, then in my modest view there is nothing that prevents such an amendment, particularly if we believe the interest of the homeland is above any other interest.

[Passage omitted] [Al-Shayji] Your Highness, there are calls by the Islamic tendency for the necessity of amending the second article of the Constitution and completing the implementation of the Islamic shari'ah. What is the government's stand vis-a-vis these requests?

[Al-Sabah] My answer to this question is that the Kuwaiti people, thanks be to God, are a Muslim people, attached and committed to Islam. They are attached to their faith and to the preservation of their religion. Based on the premise that I have been detailing, his highness the amir has decided to form a committee, which includes patriotic and specialized personalities, in whom we have every respect. The aim or duty of this committee is to examine the completion of the Islamic shariah. I believe that the brother members of this committee will submit their ideas and views in the near future. [passage omitted]

[Al-Shayji] Does Your Highness think the realization of the democratic process in Kuwait warrants the widening of the electorate and popular participation through the participation of many Kuwaitis who are not allowed at the moment to vote? If so, what is the government's stance on those problems facing the realization of such an aim, particularly today when there is so much talk about the woman's right to vote, the right of naturalized people to vote, and the lowering of the legal age to vote to 18 in a bid to broaden popular participation in Kuwait?

[Al-Sabah] I am for this idea that is aimed at widening the participation of the electorate. Everybody who has been following the amir's speeches, may God protect him, before and after the liberation can see that His Highness had pointed out clearly and unequivocally the need for widening popular participation, particularly the role of the Kuwaiti sister, who stood by the side of her brother, condemned the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, rejected and denounced the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, and cooperated with her brother in all fields, subjecting herself to investigation, torture, violence, and death. Despite all this she, the Kuwaiti sister—the sister, the mother, the wife, and the daughter—stood fast. And we are all appreciative of her role, which was a loyal and heroic one.

Therefore, the subject of giving her the right to political participation is in my opinion a matter—notwithstanding the various opinions that I have heard during the election campaign, some of which were for, some of which had reservations, and others thought despite the importance of such a matter it should be contemplated in due course in the future....[Al-Sabah changes thought] However, this matter should be above all that. I am certain that this matter will be discussed by brother members of the next National Council. It is my opinion, however, that the next National Council will give full consideration to all factors as well as full appreciation and recognition of women's role.

[Al-Shayji] Your Highness, concerning naturalized people and the lowering of the voting age to 18, in accordance with most other countries, what is your comment on that?

[Al-Sabah] Concerning the point in connection with the role of naturalized people, and also the voting age, all these points are present in the electoral law, and I find it difficult now to deal in advance with the number, or numbers, and give my opinion, but, generally speaking, I am sure that all these observations, all these points, all these opinions, and all these ideas will be discussed by the brother members of the National Council, and I am sure that the brother members of the National Council will put the country's interests above any other interest.

[Al-Shayji] Your Highness, everyone is reiterating that the issue of the population makeup must be made completely clear and decisive steps taken. What has the government done to achieve that, in particular in the case of the Bidun [stateless people who were denied Kuwaiti nationality], with foreign and Arab workers, and in the issue of naturalization in general?

[Al-Sabah] In my estimation, all these issues have been studied by the specialized committees. Concerning the population makeup, or any issue in the social field, the information field, or the population field, all these issues have been studied by Kuwaiti specialists in this field. They studied these issues exhaustively and thoroughly, and submitted their detailed and thorough report to the brother members of the higher council of planning, and the brother members of the higher council of planning looked into these studies and modified, or introduced some modifications to them, but in the end the higher council of planning approved them, and referred them to the government, and this is what we call the national document for reform and development. All the brother citizens will acquaint themselves with it, and they will see in it, over the following few days, a reply to many of the questions that were put forward in the election forums. They will find in this document the answers to their questions.

[Al-Shayji] Concerning the subject of education, Your Highness; education has received great attention in the election dialogues, and large seminars were held to discuss it, and there were requests to review and reform public education, higher education, and practical education. There are accusations leveled against the Kuwaiti Government that it has built universities abroad for different countries, some of which stood against us in the crisis, while it has not built one university campus in Kuwait. What is the government's stance with respect to reconstruction, in general, and the reconcentration on the issue of education for the benefit of all? What is Your Highness's point of view with respect to education, particularly higher education, in Kuwait?

[Al-Sabah] I would like to start by replying to the second half of your question in connection with the government's interest in building a second university. [passage omitted]

[Al-Shayji] Your Highness, concerning the housing issue, demands were raised in the candidates' dialogues about the necessity to solve housing problems so the Kuwaiti citizen does not wait about 12 years on average to obtain a house for himself. What are the solutions that the government suggests in the future [words indistinct]?

[Al-Sabah] I want to answer this question as a citizen and as an official. I share the brothers' views in connection with speeding up the building of houses, but this is not a simple and easy matter, because there are areas outside the government's control. [passage omitted]

[Al-Shayji] There is the charge against the Kuwaiti press that it has not met its obligation in promoting and serving the interests of Kuwaitis abroad and taking up the cause of the POW's and the defense of Kuwait's rights in international meetings and before other world powers. This is the first part of the question on the mass media. The second part is: Why does not the government, as a public service, allow campaigning by candidates of the various political trends through government-owned radio and television in order to enable all opinions to reach the public and to help the candidates themselves?

[Al-Sabah] In my opinion, the mass media in Kuwait have great responsibilities, and I do not deny that our mass media should be up to the standard we desire. However, since the liberation, there have been special circumstances, and our brothers in the mass media have been working day and night on attaining equipment from abroad and installing it. In my opinion, the charges are largely unfair to those working in the media. Everybody in the Ministry of Information and its various departments and sections is, in fact, working day and night in order to promote this vital service and to carry Kuwait's voice abroad.

I think we wish to have our TV and radio transmissions improved and developed, but there is a strategy prepared by the brother minister of information and senior officials in the ministry for promoting and improving TV, radio, and KUNA transmissions.

But to say that the government did not allow candidates to use the media, I can say the government and the competent authorities have given all facilities to the brother candidates. Television and radio also contributed in covering election meetings, and the press played a great role. However, in my view, due to a shortage of time or for other reasons, we did not allow candidates to talk on television or radio. If we open this door, we will not be able to close it again. Someone will come tomorrow and claim, for one reason or another, that the government, for special reasons, wanted to promote a certain candidate and allowed him to use television or radio. You can imagine what might happen since we now have about 287 candidates, but I do not believe the brothers working in the mass media would deny the candidates any facilities they require.

[Al-Shayji] [passage omitted on relations between government ministries and scientific institutions]

[Al-Sabah] First, as a government prime minister, I want to refute such statements that have been repeated and sometimes reiterated that the government is a monopoly or that it does not seek the help of specialist Kuwaitis and that it makes decisions alone. This talk contradicts the truth and facts. For example, we have a housing council. It deals with and discusses all the affairs and problems of housing. We have an education council. It deals with and discusses the affairs of education and its bases and problems in Kuwait. We have a university council. We have a petroleum council. It discusses oil matters and what concerns production, export, marketing, and all such matters. There is also the planning council that examines all matters whether in the social field or the media field or the political field or the housing field. The higher planning council has formed more than one committee to study such general matters. The reports or studies go to the council to debate them a second and third time. After this it approves them and passes them to the government. Where is this monopoly of decision? Moreover, in my meetings as an official with many brothers I listen to the views and ideas they have to help the government and to help these councils in taking action in the desired manner and to the satisfaction of citizens.

[Al-Shayji] With regard to cooperation between ministries and scientific institutions in Kuwait, it is said that this is very limited circles or Western specialists and with Kuwaitis only afterward.

[Al-Sabah] There is cooperation. There is continuous cooperation. My hope is that we have more of this cooperation and exchange of views and studies and listening to the views and advice of the brothers who work in this field.

[Al-Sayji] Your Highness, the next question is very important because it will put on the chart the future of the relationship between the two councils: The National Council and the council of ministers. There is a call saying that the realization of cooperation between the two executive and legislative authorities is very important in the coming stage because it is a going to be a very crucial and important stage in the history of Kuwait. There is one view that says the government will have to bring in elements from the opposing opinion and political currents as much as possible from among those who win in the elections and include them as ministers so all can shoulder responsibility instead of criticizing from the outside. There ought to be representatives of the political blocs in order to keep away from excesses and convulsion so one can proceed from common and realistic visions. What is the opinion of Your Highness on this idea?

[Al-Sabah] Let me answer this question quite frankly. I have lived this experience more than once. After each election and after each new council a government is formed. I used to summon some members who were fortunate to win the elections and ask them to join the government. In fact, I used to listen to a lot of the reaction and a lot of excuses or—let us say—listen to some of these excuses. Some of them used to tell me that due to some reason or special circumstance they could not join the government. It is regrettable—or rather it is painful—to say that some people place impossible conditions before they accept a ministerial post. They forgot that taking part in the government is a service to their homeland and their compatriots. The others came with an excuse saying that they can serve their country and cooperate with the government only while they are members of the National Council.

[passage omitted] As for cooperation between the executive and legislative authorities, I welcome cooperation in the interests of the country, here and abroad, and in the interest of citizens as we all work as brothers who help each other in order to serve our country and provide it with the best services.

I would not be telling a secret if I expressed my eagerness for cooperation and understanding between the executive and legislative authorities. Before (?the decision was made) to dissolve the assemblies of 1975 and 1985, I felt that things were not proceeding in the required way to provide the two branches with more cooperation and more understanding within and outside the council. [passage omitted]

I am still working, forgetting the past and looking to the shiny future, so we can work together in the various fields in order to build our homeland. I have always said, and I will say now, that the power of the sons of Kuwait lies in their cohesion, cooperation, and mutual assistance. [passage omitted]

[Al-Shayji] Your Highness, there is a debate in the elections [word indistinct] about Gulf unity, especially at the security and military levels, because it is not a secret to Your Highness that Kuwaiti security is linked to Gulf security and vice versa. What is Kuwait's stand regarding Gulf unity, especially at the security and military levels, and what is Your Highness' view regarding the forming of Gulf armed forces to help defend the entire Gulf area?

[Al-Sabah] Let us talk about cooperation between Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member countries in various fields. I, as a citizen, pin many hopes, wishes, and aspirations on it, and as an official I can say I am satisfied at what has been achieved in the past few years. However, as a citizen, I have many hopes and many aspirations. It is possible that more cooperation will end up in a union or a unity of the GCC. However, I am optimistic about the fact that we are following the right path. As an official, I can say that what has been achieved constitutes a step in the right direction. Naturally, one takes into account the situation of each country and its internal political, social, economic, and living system. However, I am optimistic that we will, God willing, soon achieve this aim to which every citizen living in this region aspires.

[Al-Shayji] Your Highness, regarding the forming of a Gulf armed forces as a dissuasive force for the protection of the region as a whole from any external aggression: What is Kuwait's stand and that of GCC member countries regarding this issue?

[Al-Sabah] Before talking about the forming of GCC armed forces, I would like to highlight Kuwait's sincere role with regard to intensifying cooperation with the brothers in all fields for the sake of the present and the future of these countries, and that we translate words into tangible action. Out of this concern and because of what we have heard about the dispute that took place two days ago between the sister Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the sister State of Qatar, I have been entrusted by His Highness the amir to leave this afternoon for sister Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and for sister State of Qatar to meet the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd, and also His Highness the heir apparent, Shaykh Hamad—because Shaykh Khalifah is in Europe—to discuss this rising dispute, because it is our view in Kuwait that whatever the nature, size, and reasons for any dispute, it will weaken the basic structure of the GCC member countries. [passage omitted] I am driven by hope to find a solution to this problem. In my view, the situation that the region is experiencing these months does not allow for the escalation of conflicts. [passage omitted]

[Al-Shayji] Your Highness, undoubtedly the Kuwaiti Government has secured the defense of Kuwait following the ugly Iraqi occupation by signing security agreements and treaties with European countries as well as with the United States in order to guarantee security and independence for Kuwait in addition to the Damascus declaration. Does Your Highness think such agreements are enough to defend Kuwait's security and future? Will such matters be discussed at the next National Council, as there will be no need for the review of such agreements?

[Al-Sabah] Allow me first to answer the second part of your question on the setting up of a GCC armed force. [as heard] Such an idea has been in GCC leaders' mind. That is why it was agreed at the GCC summit, which took place in Qatar, to set up a committee to examine such matters; the committee is chaired by His Majesty Sultan Qabus. The committee worked for months until the GCC leaders' summit meeting in Kuwait last November when they were briefed on its report to set up [word indistinct] ground, air, and naval forces; the leaders agreed in principal on the report. However, as you may know, a decision to set up a military force needs more examination by military experts and technocrats. The report was, however, examined by all GCC member states; their first observations on it will be put forward to GCC leaders at their meeting in Abu Dhabi in November.

I now have to answer your question on our agreements with friendly countries. I am not going to breach any secret if I say here that we signed an agreement, which some people have called a defense agreement and others have called a security agreement, that would oblige the other side who signed this agreement to hurry and help in the defense of Kuwait if the latter is attacked, God forbid.

We signed an agreement with America, another one with Britain, and the third agreement was with France. Such agreements count so much as they deal with military cooperation and the defense of Kuwait; they also provide an opportunity for our sons in military institutions to train at their schools and to provide us and sell us modern military equipment.

[Al-Shayji] Will all that be discussed at the National Council....

[Al-Sabah, interrupting] There are copies of those agreements at the secretariat of the National Council, and there is nothing that bars people from looking at them.

[Al-Shayji] Your Highness, candidates have been talking about the weakness of the current government, which has been in office for a year and a half now, and its inability to meet the aspirations of the citizens at this critical stage. What is Your Highness' comment on such claims, and how do you evaluate the achievements of the current government, which is due to hand in its resignation this week?

[Al-Sabah] The truth is I do not know, as prime minister, whether to praise the achievements made by the government and the other government bodies, but I tell the truth. I am pained when I hear a Kuwaiti citizen leveling accusations; i.e., he does not appreciate the achievements that have been made in the past few months in various fields. When I meet a foreign or Arab visitor, the latter says the truth and praises the achievements that have been made in the past few months. [passage omitted]

It is true that we got help from foreign companies, but there is also a tangible role played by workers in these fields. It is wrong to hide their role that led to reconstruction in a short time.

There are also mistakes. As an official, I admit that there are mistakes; however, we should not adopt the role of a spectator and stand still; we must help each other in correcting mistakes.

[Al-Shayji] Your Highness, an important question that is self-evident now is national unity in Kuwait, which is a very important issue for a small state like Kuwait, particularly since internal cohesion strengthens the state in various fields. In Your Highness's view, what are the steps that the government and the council will adopt, with directives from the government and cooperation from the council, in order to strengthen national unity and close the ranks of the small Kuwaiti society, in order to stand as a state that has an entity, sovereignty, and unified aims.

[Al-Sabah] This is a very important question. I would like to say here that there are a number of steps and procedures to consolidate national unity, foremost of which is the presence of good intentions and the sincere desire to cooperate with everyone in all fields. The situation does not allow further struggle, friction, and fragmentation on the domestic front. Current conditions facing us and future ones are very, very serious. Therefore, one should be very careful and very aware and have sincere intentions to cooperate in all fields, regardless of our position, whether working for the executive or legislative branches. In my opinion, our current situation is very hard indeed. [passage omitted]

The statement I wish to make in this interview in view of the rumors and statements made with the aim of breaking up Kuwaiti unity is the following Koranic verse: The foam shall soon dissipate, but what is good for man shall remain. Verily God has stated the truth.

Officials and nonofficials have great and colossal responsibilities. The future and continued existence of this homeland depends on what citizens offer to their homeland irrespective of their position or job.

I repeat and reiterate that the conditions through which Kuwait and the region are passing demand a further closing of ranks and unity of word and action.

[Al-Shayji] In concluding our interview, I cannot but express my utmost thanks and gratitude to His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister, for accepting our invitation to participate in this dialogue despite the shortage of time. Your cooperation has greatly helped in conducting this objective dialogue to give Kuwaiti citizens and voters every opportunity to expand the scope of the government as well as that of the various political trends so they will be the ultimate arbiters and deciders and so that when they go to cast their votes they will be aware of all the trends before them. Thanks again to His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, and in the name of the University of Kuwait and the Political Sciences Department, we thank you for accepting this invitation. May God grant you success. Peace be upon you. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Developments in Saudi Border Clash Reported

Saudis Still Occupy Post

LD0310111892 Doha Radio Qatar in Arabic 1030 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Here is a statement:

An official source at the Qatari Foreign Ministry has said, in comment on the statement issued by an official Saudi source on 1 October 1992, that contrary to the content of this Saudi statement, Saudi forces are still occupying the Qatari al Khafus post after they had evacuated all its occupants. The official source said that the firm and declared policy of the State of Qatar has been and continues to be represented in the need to solve differences among our Gulf states by peaceful means, which preserve for our fraternal states and peoples the fateful relations of friendship and fraternity which have brought them together over centuries, and rejection of the recourse to force or the threat of the use of force as a means of settling these differences.

From this premise, the State of Qatar has striven in the past to demand negotiations with the sister Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in order to settle outstanding borders issues between them in an atmosphere of fraternity which takes into consideration the common interests of the two sister states. Therefore, the State of Qatar was completely taken by surprise by the use of military force against the Qatari al Khafus post as a dangerous precedent in the special historic relations between the two states.

The State of Qatar, in line with its firm policy, believes that this dispute should be solved by friendly means, by holding direct contacts between the two sides, as called for by the Qatari Council of Ministers statement dated Wednesday 30 September 1992. However, it believes that the situation should be restored to its former status, before the regrettable events took place, through the withdrawal of the Saudi forces from the Qatari post, and by allowing Qatar to occupy it again in order to enable direct bilateral contacts to achieve the desired objective.

Saudi Ambassador Summoned

NC0310112992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1101 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] Doha, 3 Oct (MENA)—Qatari Foreign Minister Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani today summoned Saudi Ambassador to Qatar 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Hamad al-Shibayli.

The Qatari News Agency said the Qatari minister handed the Saudi ambassador a memorandum of protest from the state of Qatar against Saudi military forces' unjustified aggression against the Qatari al Khufus Center.

Official Discusses Dispute With UNSC Envoys

LD0310133792 Doha Radio Qatar in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] His Excellency the foreign minister received today their excellencies the ambassadors of the five permanent member states of the UN Security Council [UNSC]. He explained to them the circumstances of the aggression, the viewpoint of the State of Qatar, and its standpoint toward that. He also made it clear that it is necessary to start negotiations between the two countries as soon as possible in order to agree on the final borders between the two states and their demarcation.

Heir, Kuwaiti Prime Minister Meet

JN0310184692 Doha Radio Qatar in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Excerpts] His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, deputy amir and heir apparent, led those who received his brother His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister in the sisterly State of Kuwait, upon his arrival at Doha's international airport at 1945 today on a visit to the country at the head of a high-level official delegation. [passage omitted]

His Excellency 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], also arrived on board the same plane.

At 2000 today, His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani met with His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah in his office at the Emiri Office. [passage omitted] The meeting was also attended by GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah. The QATARI NEWS AGENCY has learned that the two sides exchanged views on recent developments in the region.

Gulf Security Force Withdrawn

NC0510092392 Paris AFP in English 0847 GMT 5 Oct 92

[Text] Riyadh, Oct 5 (AFP)—Qatar has withdrawn its 200 soldiers from a joint Gulf security force in the wake of a border dispute with Saudi Arabia, a senior Gulf official said Monday.

The official, who requested anonymity, said the troops returned home on Sunday from Kuwait, where they formed part of the Gulf Cooperation Council's "Peninsula Shield" force created in 1985 during the Iran-Iraq war.

The move was directly related to a border dispute which has flared up between Riyadh and Doha, the official said. He feared that Qatar might end up quitting the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council], which has grouped the six Gulf monarchies of the Arabian peninsula since 1981.

The GCC also comprises Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Meets With Kuwaiti Prime Minister

LD0310181692 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1515 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 3 Oct (SPA)—At his office in al-Salam Palace today, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, received His Royal Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister of the sister state of Kuwait, and the delegation accompanying him.

The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard; His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general; His Excellency Ibrahim al- 'Anqari, special adviser to the custodian of the two holy mosques; and His Excellency Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir. Also present was His Excellency 'Abdallah Bisharah, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

His royal highness the Kuwaiti heir apparent is accompanied by His Excellency Dhari 'Abdallah al-'Uthman, minister of state for cabinet affairs; 'Abd-al-Latif al-Bahar, secretary of the office of his royal highness the heir apparent; Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, under secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and 'Abd al-Rahman al-Bakr, Kuwaiti ambassador to the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

[Riyadh SPA in Arabic at 1600 GMT on 3 October in a Jeddah- datelined item reports: "His Royal Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al- 'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, and the delegation accompanying him left Jeddah this afternoon after a brief visit to the Kingdom. Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz saw him off at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport."]

Minister Reacts to UN Resolution Seizing Assets

JN0310122892 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi today condemned the U.S. exploitation of the UN Security Council in forcing the passage of a new Security Council resolution yesterday which sanctioned the seizure of part of the Iraqi people's assets deposited in foreign banks, at a time when Iraq was engaged in negotiations with the United Nations on exporting $4 billion worth of crude oil and on an agreement regarding the so-called UN humanitarian aid program.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY today, the culture and information minister added: The resolution issued by the Security Council yesterday shows itself to be a robbery. Indeed, it is a bank robbery reflecting an amended version modelled on Texas robberies involving bank funds said to total $300 million. The United States, Britain, and France—like any band of robbers—found themselves compelled to wrap this illegal robbery in covers provided by the Security Council.

Hamid Yusuf Hammadi went on to say: A number of world diplomatic quarters and figures objected to this robbery. Furthermore, they affirmed that this is taking place for the first time in the history of the United Nations.

The culture and information minister said: What happened at the UN Security Council yesterday was disgraceful, and proves that the council has become a tool in the hand of the United States. Moreover, the council members who voted in favor of yesterday's resolution, with the exception of the PRC, have accepted a disgraceful position. This includes the Moroccan envoy, who should have been in harmony with the values of his country and nation. This comes at a time when the PRC envoy adopted an objective stand, which expressed his belief that the draft U.S. resolution is extraordinary, abnormal, and unnecessary, taking into consideration that the talks between Iraq and the United Nations have made some progress, and that Iraq expressed its readiness to resume oil talks, which we hope will take place soon.

He added: In his address to the UN Security Council yesterday, the PRC envoy warned that seizing any country's assets abroad is an encroachment on that country's sovereignty, raises complicated legal issues, and that the UN Security Council must be cautious regarding this issue.

Concluding his statement, the culture and information minister said: Robbing the Iraqi people's assets in foreign banks shows the low level of meanness, despair, and impotence the U.S. and British governments have reached. This new crime will never affect the Iraqis, but will escalate their hatred and rancor against the colonialist thieves, who are totally unscrupulous.

Assembly Denounces 'U.S. Piracy'

JN0410203592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Oct (INA)—The National Assembly has denounced the U.S. piracy and theft of part of the Iraqi people's assets deposited in foreign banks. The Assembly described this act as a flagrant violation of all international commitments and agreements.

In a statement issued today, the National Assembly said the U.S. theft of Iraqi funds constitutes a serious threat to our people and unethical behavior that contradicts all pertinent international norms and values recognized by all states of the world.

The Assembly statement added: The coalition states have gone beyond the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions and their objective is no longer the problem of Kuwait, but rather it is direct intervention in Iraq's domestic affairs. Consequently, these states have issued resolutions that have nothing to do with the issue of Kuwait, such as the resolution on safe havens and the parallels, and the resolution banning Iraqi flights in the north and south. Such acts contravene UN objectives and expose world security and peace to major threats. Such acts also constitute an attempt to impose hegemony on the Arab region and divide Iraq by way of foreign intervention in its domestic affairs.

The Assembly stressed that all the resolutions issued by the UN Security Council following Iraq's withdrawal [from Kuwait] sought to obstruct the lifting of the economic blockade imposed on Iraq, and aimed at achieving international objectives of sole concern to U.S. interests.

The Assembly statement said: The UN Security Council's new resolution, confiscating Iraqi assets abroad, sets a serious precedent in the history of the United Nations because it constitutes an act of aggression and international piracy, not to mention a flagrant violation of all international commitments and agreements. It will lead to the loss of global confidence in all forms of international bank deposits.

The statement added: The confiscation of Iraqi funds also constitutes a serious threat to the lives of the Iraqi people, and the humanitarian aid missions which the United Nations is trying to undertake in Iraq will be useless.

The statement stressed that this unethical and illegitimate behavior also contravenes all international values and ethics, which have been recognized long ago by all states, and is a serious precedent set by the UN Security Council, whose sole mission is to preserve world security and stability and protect the independence and sovereignty of UN member states.

The National Assembly urged the world community to denounce such behavior and unprecedented resolutions. It also urged the world community to support Iraq's legitimate demands to preserve its assets and funds, and lift the economic blockade imposed on it so that it can utilize its natural resources and export its oil to provide the food, medicine, and other essentials of life needed by the people; meet all of its international obligations; help alleviate the suffering of the poor people; and reassume its deserving role in the world corresponding to its resources and abilities that are known to all.

Kurdish Front, Workers Party Forces Clash

TA0410213092 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 2100 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] It is reported that clashes have started in northern Iraq between the armed forces of the Kurdish leaders and the terrorist organization PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan]. Kurdish sources say that the armed forces of the Kurdish Front, which unites the opposition groups in Iraq, and the PKK terrorists are fighting in the villages of [words indistinct] and the town of Zakho. The Kurdish Front reportedly took a building in Zakho which was used as a base by the PKK.

It is reported that the Kurdish Front forces have surrounded PKK bases in [words indistinct] and a fort held by the PKK near Zakho.

The Iraqi Kurdish leaders complain that the PKK prevents the Kurdish people from returning to their homes and that it harms the regional economy. A short while ago, the Iraqi Kurdish leaders gave the PKK an ultimatum to leave the border region.

Meanwhile, the local parliament in northern Iraq, which is composed of [words indistinct], has approved the establishment of a federated state in the region within a democratic and federal Iraq. A spokesman of the Kurdish Front said that the federated state will include Irbil, Sulaymaniyah, [word indistinct] and Karkuk.

Earlier, the Kurdish leaders in northern Iraq wanted the region to be autonomous.

Opposition Group in Cairo Rejects Irbil Plan

NC0410174492 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] The Iraqi opposition grouping in Cairo has rejected the federation plan proposed by certain Kurdish leaders. The grouping voiced its faith in a unified Iraq embracing Arabs, Kurds, and other nationalities.

In a statement issued today, the grouping noted reservations about the Iraqi opposition meeting in Irbil and its decision to form a presidium, government, and parliament, because this runs counter to legal and revolutionary bases. The grouping expressed doubts that such institutions would be able to carry out their powers or obtain Arab and international recognition amid the allied states' control of northern and southern Iraq.

The statement stresses the importance of safeguarding the unity of the Iraqi opposition factions and forming a unified command capable of leading the masses toward attaining their objectives, wiping out the dictatorial regime of Saddam Husayn, and building a prosperous Iraq. The statement notes that the grouping rejects any attempt to relinquish Iraqi territory under sectarian or ethnic pretexts.

Bomb Explosion Injures 12 in Irbil

NC0310164192 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] A bomb exploded in Shaykhallah Square in Irbil this morning, injuring 12 people. Following this incident, the [Kurdish] Interior Ministry undersecretary held a news conference in which he condemned this criminal act and accused the Iraqi regime agents of planting the bomb.

Troops Reportedly Moved To Tikrit

LD0410231892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1830 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] To face a possible coup d'etat, the Iraqi regime has moved large sections of government installations and equipment from Baghdad to the province of Tikrit. A spokesman for the Iraqi mojahedin today informed IRNA in Damascus that the Iraqi regime has recently recalled a number of units from garrisons within the region of the 32d north parallel. These troops have been moved to the Iraqi capital to fight off any possible coup d'etat, he added.

Regime Military Base Near Tikrit Attacked

NC0210182092 Al-Sulaymaniyah Iraq Voice of the Kurdistan Revolution Radio in Arabic 1710 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] The popular forces launched a surprise attack against a military base in the Balad area near Tikrit and destroyed a MiG-23 jet fighter. Two pilots, who used to fly from this base to bombard the people in south Iraq, were killed in this heroic operation.

Regime Blows Up Military Airport in No-Fly Zone

NC0410154792 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] The military engineering department of defeated Saddam's regime last week blew up (al-Futayrah) military airport near the marshlands in al-'Amarah Governorate, which the regime was using to launch its aerial campaigns against the residents of the southern marshlands. Our sources said the explosions could be heard from far away.

The regime earlier had removed all the contents and furniture of the above-mentioned airport. (Al-Futayrah) military airport lies inside the no-fly zone. The regime took this step fearing that these military installations would fall into the hands of the popular forces.

Republican Guard Deployed in al-'Amarah

NC0210161092 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] As a result of the panic and horror experienced by the defeated regime because of the heroic attacks carried out by our daring strugglers, the regime deployed a number of Republican Guards brigades in al-'Amarah Governorate at the beginning of last week. The authorities imposed a curfew in the city of al-'Amarah, according to our sources in the south. The same sources added that units from the Republican Guards are now deployed in the key areas of the city of al-'Amarah and are besieging the densely populated neighborhoods. Regular and special security forces are storming the citizens' homes and arresting scores of them.

In another development, the popular troops, in response to the regime's practices, have attacked the regime troops stationed in the al-Majarr al-Kabir and al-'Adl regions, inflicting heavy casualties and material losses on them. Scores of personnel were killed or wounded and a number of vehicles, weapons, and military equipment was destroyed.

Opposition Attacks Republican Guard Train

LD0310220692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] Forces opposed to the Iraqi regime have attacked a train carrying Iraqi republican guards in the town of East Hamzah, in the province of al-Diwaniyah, killing a number of them. According to opponents of the Iraqi regime, the train was completely destroyed. The train, which was going from Baghdad to the port of al-Basrah, was on a special mission to take troops to southern Iraq.

In the wake of the attack, the Iraqi regime's defense minister immediately went to the scene and ordered the destruction of all the surrounding villages.

In the meantime, the Baghdad regime has blown up and destroyed the al-Tirah military airport, near the marshes of al-'Amarah province, situated in the no-fly zone. According to opponents of the Iraqi regime, the Baghdad regime carried out this operation for fear that the airport would be captured by popular forces. The military airport, which was destroyed last week by the Iraqi regime's engineering units, has been used in the past in the Baghdad regime's aerial attacks against the people of southern Iraq.

Regime Reportedly Burns Marshland Areas

NC0410163792 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islami Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] On Tuesday, 27 of the current month [date as heard], defeated Saddam's regime committed a new crime against the sons of the marshlands in regions of the al-Majarr al-Kabir district in al-'Amarah Governorate. Saddam's artillery fire burned down the following areas: (al-Rafi'), (Umm al-Rijlayn), (al-Mawzar), (al- Hadjiyah), (al-Shadhriyah), Wadi Khurr, (Abu Jawasil), al-Tafshah, (al-Misrah), and (Abu Mahallah). Heavy and concentrated shelling also included the (al-Naggarah) area of the al-'Amarah marshlands.

Our sources affirmed that the regime's measures against the sons of the marshlands have killed and injured scores of innocent citizens and left many families homeless. These families fled deep into the marshlands.

Our sources added that the regime's gangs, consisting of the Republican Guards and security and military intelligence personnel, have confiscated the property and livestock of the residents of these areas, which have been wiped off the face of the earth.

On their part, the popular forces and sons of the Arab tribes in the al-'Amarah marshlands responded to these oppressive practices by waging a forceful attack on units of the 19th Brigade deployed on the edges of al-'Amarah Governorate. They were engaged in a fierce battle for more than two hours, which caused the regime great casualties and losses in equipment and weapons. Around 50 brigade members were killed, including seven officers, and five military tanks and two armored vehicles were destroyed. The brave popular forces also acquired a large number of small- and medium-caliber weapons and telecommunications equipment, as well as a substantial amount of military equipment.

Artillery Attacks in South Continue

LD0310173492 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Oct. 3, IRNA—Iraqi artillery attacks against the residents of the southern areas of the country continued yesterday.

The attacks particularly those against the al-'Amarah marshland dwellers were so intensive that explosions could be heard in Howeyzeh, Khuzestan Province.

Southern Iraqi marshland and reed are still burning and the smoke can be seen from the border areas. The Iraqi regime is setting fire to these marshlands in order to exert pressure on its inhabitants.

Minister Denies Unrest in Marshlands

JN0410130592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1202 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Oct (INA)—Iraqi Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi has said that the objective of the U.S.-British-French aggression against Iraq is to restore Western hegemony over Iraq's oil resources.

In an interview with Fath-al-Rahman al-Nahhas, chief editor of the newspaper AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH published here today, Hammadi added that the cost of the aggression against Iraq totaled $670 billion paid to the countries which participated in the aggression by some Arab states revolving in the U.S. orbit.

Minister Hammadi went on to say that the United States, Britain, and France have been engaging in efforts to perpetuate the embargo and pushed agent elements to carry out subversive acts inside Iraq to destabilize the situation in Iraq and disturb the peace there.

As regards the colonialist scheme concerning the enforcement of a no-fly zone in southern Iraq, Hammadi said that this scheme, which aims to partition Iraq and fragment its national unity, has been thwarted thanks to the steadfastness of the Iraqi people, to their rallying around their leadership, to their strong patriotic sentiments, and also to their national unity.

The minister denied news reports circulated by some news media and some hostile intelligence quarters to the effect that riots and acts disturbing the peace in the marshlands have taken place, noting that life is proceeding normally there and the situation there is very stable.

In reply to a question on the infiltrations carried out by some elements used by the Iranian regime, Hammadi affirmed the Iraqi people's ability to repulse and prevent such operations. He added that Iraq is highly prepared to confront any attempt or aggression meant to undermine or encroach upon its unity or national sovereignty.

Concerning the oil issue, the culture and information minister asserted that Iraq comes next to only Saudi Arabia in terms of strategic oil reserves. This, he added, prompts enemies to think of various means and pretexts to control this wealth.

Radio Views Saudi Motives for Border Clash

JN0310191592 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Unattributed report carried within the "Spotlights on News" program]

[Text] An unstable situation is currently prevailing in the Arabian Gulf region, and many political observers and analysts believe that it was fabricated to provide colonialist states with the justification to entrench their presence in the region and control it politically and economically—at a time when the Iranian regime is already occupying Abu Musa and Tunb al-Kubra and Tunb al Sughra, and threatening the United Arab Emirates that if it continues to demand sovereignty over the three islands, Iran will now make what it calls new claims in the region; namely, to Bahrain and the State of Qatar.

Instead of supporting the United Arab Emirates, the Saudi regime fabricated a new crisis with the State of Qatar—a crisis which political observers deemed part of a plan assigned to the Saudi regime to create more tension in the Arabian Gulf region. A spokesman for the Qatari Armed Forces General Command announced that a Saudi military force attacked a Qatari border post and that two Qatari soldiers were killed and a third captured.

In light of this development, the Qatari Council of Ministers held an emergency meeting under Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani and heard a report from the defense minister on this aggression. The Qatari Government then decided to cancel the border agreement with Saudi Arabia in reply to the military aggression against the Qatari border post.

Following the emergency meeting, a statement was issued stating that the Saudi regime recently demarcated the border between the two countries on a unilateral basis, in violation of the provisions of the aforementioned agreement and that the Saudi authorities have not responded to repeated Qatari demands to hold talks for that purpose. The Saudi regime announced its open rejection of the Qatari Government's decision to cancel the border agreement signed by the two countries in 1965. It also claimed that Doha's story was absolutely baseless and held Qatar responsible for the incident, if it ever occurred, as the Saudis put it.

As the Saudi regime denied the attack and rejected the Qatari Government's decision to cancel the border agreement, a responsible source in the Qatari Armed Forces General Command announced that another military aggression was carried out against the Qatari border post. This Qatari official added that a large Saudi force besieged Qatar's al-Khafus border post and forced its personnel to leave, pointing out that the Qatari Border Guard refrained from clashing with the attacking Saudi force to prevent bloodshed on orders from Qatar's Armed Forces General Command.

Many political analysts and observers interested in Middle East affairs believe that in the coming days, we may witness a new escalation in the Gulf region by the Saudi regime. Therefore, it could have been expected that the Saudi regime would deny as baseless the Qatari statement on the second attack against the Qatari border post. An official Saudi source said that the latest Qatari allegation was absolutely baseless.

Engine Failure Appears Cause of El Al Crash

Pilot Reported Engine Trouble

TA0410193092 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Telephone interview with Yisra'el Cherbin, manager of the El Al cargo flights in Amsterdam, by Ya'aqov Ahime'ir—live]

[Excerpt] [Ahime'ir] Good evening, Mr. Cherbin. What happened?

[Cherbin] First of all, let me correct your earlier statement: It happened during takeoff, not landing. The plane was taking off from Amsterdam on its way to Tel Aviv. Apparently, there was no explosion; the plane lost two engines during the takeoff. The captain reported during the takeoff that he was having a problem with two engines, and that he was going to land again. Apparently he crashed as he was about to land.

[Ahime'ir] We relied on news agencies, which reported that the plane exploded as it was about to land. Do you know the number of casualties?

[Cherbin] No. Since it crashed in a residential area, I have no idea. Aboard the plane itself there were three crewmen and one passenger.

[Ahime'ir] What was the plane carrying?

[Cherbin] Ordinary commercial cargo.

[Ahime'ir] I see. Are you saying, Mr. Cherbin, that this was an accident, that two engines had stopped functioning?

[Cherbin] The captain reported during takeoff that he lost two engines and that he was turning back in an effort to land. [passage omitted]

Terrorism Not Seen as Cause

TA0410203492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] El Al Director General Rafi Harlev has said that the crashed plane was carrying 114 tonnes of cargo from New York to Israel via Amsterdam. According to Harlev, a failure of two engines is a very rare occurrence, and it will be up to an inquiry commission to determine the cause of the disaster.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the estimate in Jerusalem is that the event was not caused by a terrorist attack.

Investigators Leave for Amsterdam

TA0510062292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 5 Oct 92

[Text] Two commissions of inquiry left for Amsterdam approximately 30 minutes ago aboard a special El Al plane. The teams will investigate the circumstances of yesterday's disaster. The commission of inquiry set up by the government will be headed by reserves Major General 'Amos Lapidot, a former commander of the Israel Air Force. The El Al commission of inquiry will be headed by Assistant Director General 'Amos Amir. Both commissions will work in conjunction with the inquiry commission set up by the Netherlands' Government.

Rabin Wires Dutch Prime Minister

TA0410205192 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 2028 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin tonight sent a message to the Dutch prime minister in the wake of the plane disaster in Amsterdam. In his message, Rabin expressed profound shock at the terrible tragedy that befell the Dutch people as a result of the El Al plane crash. Our heart is with you at this hour, and we mourn the death of both Dutchmen and Israelis, the prime minister wrote. Our political correspondent reports that the prime minister wished a speedy recovery to the wounded and asked his Dutch counterpart to convey his heartfelt commiseration to the Dutch nation and the bereaved families.

Rabin Holds News Conference

TA0510091192 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0805 GMT 5 Oct 92

[News conference by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on the El Al plane crash outside Amsterdam with unidentified correspondents at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Rabin] ....condolences to the families of the El Al crew and the family of the female passenger. This disaster caused heavy damage, and many people were killed in a neighborhood near Amsterdam when the plane hit a high-rise apartment building during a crash landing. Many Dutch residents of Amsterdam were killed and injured. Yesterday evening I sent a message of condolences to the Dutch prime minister in which I expressed our shared feelings of sorrow and bereavement with the Dutch people. We also expressed our readiness to dispatch the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] rescue unit to participate in the rescue efforts.

We feel pain not only for the loss of the plane's crew but also for the Dutch citizens who were killed. The Israeli authorities have already taken action—both El Al and the Civil Aviation Administration—and have sent authorized experts to investigate the incident. An investigation will also be conducted by the Dutch authorities and by representatives of the Boeing company, in addition to the El Al officials, in order to discover the reasons behind this terrible disaster. As far as I can remember, this is the first disaster of this kind to befall El Al since its inauguration. An El Al passenger plane was downed over Bulgaria once, but it was by Bulgarian Air Force combat jets. A thorough investigation will be conducted and the appropriate conclusions will be drawn in order to guarantee that El Al continues to maintain the high level of security its flights are so famous for.

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, going on the initial information you have received, has the possibility of sabotage been ruled out?

[Rabin] I can only tell you what the initial reports were. Every possibility will be examined, because we must get to the real reason behind this accident which resulted in such a tragedy both to the Israelis and to a greater number of Dutch.

[Correspondent] Mr. Rabin, you spoke with the Egyptian president this morning. What did you two discuss?

[Rabin] The Egyptian president picked up the phone this morning without any prior notice. He sent his condolences to the bereaved Israeli families and to the State of Israel. He wanted to express the sorrow he shares with the bereaved families and the State of Israel about this tragedy.

Accord 'in Principle' With Syria Reported

TA0410161592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] Tzomet Knesset Member [MK] Gonen Segev says that a delegation of MK's, which visited the United States, was told by U.S. Administration officials and Israeli delegation members that Israel and Syria have already reached an agreement in principle. According to MK Segev, the information he received in the United States corroborates reports published in England concerning an agreement under which Israel would acknowledge Syrian sovereignty over the Golan Heights and withdraw from most of its territory in return for a full peace treaty.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht notes that MK Segev demanded that Yitzhaq Rabin consult the nation prior to deciding on the sweeping move of withdrawal from territories.

Rabin Denies Reports

TA0510102392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 5 Oct 92

[Text] In his meeting with Likud Knesset members [MK's], Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin denied that any agreements have been reached with Syria or that maps have already been drawn up, as was recently reported by the media.

Likud MK David Levi said it seems that the present government has become more aware of the problems involved in the bilateral negotiations and realizes that it was not the Likud government that was to blame for them but rather Israel's negotiating partners.

MK Binyamin Netanyahu said he believes that the government is now priming itself to cede territory on the Golan Heights to Syria in return for a peace agreement that will be nothing more than a scrap of paper. MK Moshe Qatzav, Likud faction chairman, said the disagreements with the government remain in force in all areas, from the Golan Heights to the Palestinian issue. Qatzav said the possibility of a national unity government was not discussed during the meeting, adding that the Likud would not join such a government even if such a possibility were broached, due to the deep gap between the Labor and Likud positions.

No Breakthrough Reported in Rabin-Dumas Meeting

TA0410162892 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas has been having a tete-a-tete meeting with his Israeli counterpart Shim'on Peres at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem for the past 30 minutes.

Dumas began his visit in Israel with an hour-long tete-a-tete meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The main message emerging from the Rabin-Dumas meeting is that there are no results. Dumas did not bring along any message or tidings from Damascus, and he did not present any paper to the prime minister. The two men discussed the situation in the Middle East, the peace process, the bilateral and multilateral talks, and Israel's relations with Europe. However, nothing concrete—neither a message nor a breakthrough—came out of the meeting between Dumas and Rabin. Similarly, nothing at all is expected to come out of Dumas' shuttle mission in the region.

Dumas 'Cautiously Optimistic'

TA0410174592 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and his Israeli counterpart Shim'on Peres are holding a news conference now to sum up their meeting and Dumas' shuttle mission trip in the Middle East which included Damascus, Cairo, and Jerusalem.

The French foreign minister said he feels cautiously optimistic at the end of his meetings. I discerned a willingness for openness in Damascus, he said. More to the point, Dumas said that the Syrian authorities now are awaiting an Israeli declaration in response to Faruq al-Shar's statement at the United Nations that Syria is prepared for total peace. The Syrians say that such a declaration should come within the framework set down in Madrid, in other words, not in a meeting at a different level.

At this point, Peres said that Dumas told him he had gotten the impression that Hafiz al-Asad wants to promote the peace process prior to the U.S. elections. This is news, seeing that to date everyone thought that al-Asad is waiting until after the U.S. elections to revive and accelerate the negotiations. Peres asked Dumas to relay a message to the Syrian president whereby Syria also should participate in the multilateral negotiations, not just in the bilateral talks.

Dumas reiterated at the news conference that he had not intended to arrange a meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and Syrian President al-Asad. Consequently, there was no question of his efforts having failed.

Earlier, Dumas conferred with the families of the MIA's from the al-Sultan Ya'qub battle and with the family of Ron Arad [missing Israeli navigator presumed held in Lebanon], but he did not have any big news for them.

Dumas is leaving Israel now. At the end of his shuttle mission, we did not hear any great declarations or news concerning the peace process.

'Top Secret' Irangate Document Leak Investigated

TA0410113592 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Oct 92 p A3

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Israeli elements are currently investigating how top secret documents connected to the Irangate affair leaked and reached the American ABC television network, which broadcast details from them on 2 October on its "Nightline" show. Knowledgeable defense sources have said that they believe only Israeli elements familiar with the documents could deliver them to the United States.

The reaction of Judy Nir-Moses, 'Amiram Nir's widow, could not be obtained last night. At the time, she claimed that the documents were stolen when her house was broken into. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 4 October reports that "Ms. Nir-Moses told our correspondent that the document presented on the 'Nightline' show was not stolen from her apartment at that time."] Another person involved in the Irangate affair, Ya'aqov Nimrodi, who was asked to comment on that, last night told HA'ARETZ: "It is a scandal. It is a shame. It could harm U.S.-Israeli relations and could even cause Bush not to be reelected."

In mid-December 1985, then-Prime Minister Shim'on Peres ordered 'Amiram Nir, his adviser on counterterrorism, to study the Iranian issue and examine the possibility of formulating a new and different framework that would overcome the obstacles or problems identified in the first stage, taking into account all the data Israel had regarding the U.S. stand. The data presented to Nir in debriefing Israeli elements involved in the operation led him to form the following description of the events and situation.

[The same page of the Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ issue carries a photograph of what the caption describes as "the first page of the report on the Iranian operation, written by 'Amiram Nir." The picture shows the upper portion of the first page of a report, addressed to the prime minister, which reads as follows: "[top center] State of Israel; [underlined words] Top Secret; To the Addressee Only; Sensitive. [top left] This document contains 50 pages; one of two copies; Tel Aviv [Hebrew date] 10th of Adar, 5,747; 11 March 1987; A/52

["Subject: Chronology—The Iranian Operation (Stage B)

[("Draft Maximal Version for the United States)

[[underlined] "A. December 1985—Until the Nir-Poindexter Meeting

["In mid-December 1985, Prime Minister Peres ordered his counterterrorism adviser 'Amiram Nir to study the issue (until that time he had not been aware of the existence of the Iranian operation), and to examine whether a new, different, framework could be established to overcome the obstacles or difficulties identified in the first stage, taking into account the data known in Israel regarding the stand...." [end of photographed document]]

The American Interest

The document Nir wrote in cooperation with other elements says basically that the Americans are interested in opening channels for contacts with Iranian elements who are in power or who have a very good chance of assuming positions of power in Iran. That is due to Iran's strategic importance and in view of possible changes in its leadership and conduct. As a separate issue, the White House is committed to attempting to free the hostages held by extreme Shi'ite organizations in Lebanon. The Americans realized at a certain stage that the Iranian regime has influence over those organizations. The document says the Americans are interested in principle in launching a strategic dialogue with elements in the Iranian administration and are even willing to provide Iran with American arms as part of that dialogue.

According to the document, the Americans were willing to hold a dialogue of gestures with the arms—which were to be supplied by Israel—proving the seriousness of U.S. intentions toward Iran. The release via Iranian influence of the U.S. hostages held in Lebanon would prove Iran's intentions toward the United States. This was to be a preliminary to the political and strategic dialogue.

Following the U.S. disappointment in certain aspects of stage A—the Iranians did not keep their promises regarding the release of all the hostages; the Iranians claimed the weapons they received were not those promised; and no direct connection was established between the Americans and Iranian ruling elements—in the London meeting on 8 December 1985, the Americans announced that they were willing to enter a strategic dialogue with the Iranians and to supply Iran with American weapons only after it brought about the release of the hostages.

The Israeli Interest

The document says Israel has an interest in aiding the Americans in attaining their two goals, in view of the general scope of U.S.-Israeli relations. The document also says Israel has interests in becoming involved in strategic connections with Iran because of Iran's importance in the region. Moreover, Israel has an interest in releasing its own captives, held by an extreme Shi'ite organization in Lebanon.

The Iranian Interest

The Iranian interest, as presented until that stage by middleman Manosir Gorbanipar [name as published], was to establish a secret link between Iran and the United States, based on Iranian elements' sobering up from anti-Western and anti-American fanaticism. This link was supposed to strengthen elements in Iran who favored, or were willing to favor for strategic reasons, a thaw in relations with the United States and the West. The price for the contacts and creation of the links or tools for rapprochement was, according to the Iranian middleman, the supply of an American weapon Iran needed. According to Gorbanipar, the establishment of the link and the supply of the weapons could be used to pressure Iranian ruling elements to advance the release of the American hostages held in Lebanon.

In the document, 'Amiram Nir writes that in December 1985, Gorbanipar explained the lack of Iranian willingness to act on the issue of the hostages by the confidence crisis in Iran following what they called "the fraud attempt on the Hawk missiles" in November that year. Nir defined the relations with Iran in a new framework, saying "there is a need to find a way to bridge the gaps between the U.S. stand, demanding that hostages be freed prior to the dialogue and the supply of weapons, and the Iranian demand that the arms be supplied prior to the release of hostages and the dialogue; a way has to be found to free the Israeli hostages in that operation; the operation has to be made more secure and there is need to reduce the likelihood of it being exposed due to the release of hostages; an attempt must be made to attain direct contacts with the Iranians as quickly as possible; in the framework of the continuation of the operation, an attempt should be made to solve two problems left over from the first stage, including the replacement of 18 Hawk missiles which were supplied to Iran in November 1985, and which the Iranians demanded be replaced, and even warned of sanctions if they are not."

According to the document, the plan was constructed as follows: The amount of arms—supplied in parallel with the release of all the hostages, including the Israelis, and the opening of the political-strategic dialogue—will be determined in advance. It will be agreed with the Iranians that the hostages will be released as close as possible to the beginning of the supply of arms, meaning after the supply of the smallest possible amount of arms as a small "down payment." The Iranians will be offered an additional prize for the release of all the hostages: the parallel release of up to 30 Shi'ite detainees held by the South Lebanese Army in the al-Khiyam Prison. The freed Shi'ite prisoners will not be from among those directly involved in terror acts, and whose release was expected anyway, and was held up in favor of the operation.

The order of operation was planned as follows: A. Iran will receive 500 TOW missiles. B. All the U.S. hostages will be freed, and a third of the agreed-upon number of the al-Khiyam inmates will be released at the same time. C. Iran will receive additional 3,500 TOW missiles. D. All Israeli hostages will be released, and another third of the al-Khiyam inmates will be freed at the same time. E. Once the Israeli hostages are released, another third of the al- Khiyam inmates will be discharged. F. After these five stages are carried out, a meeting will be held between senior Iranian and U.S. officials to discuss the strategic dialogue.

The document in HA'ARETZ's possession includes dates of meetings 'Amiram Nir held in Washington with administration officials. The document says: "The plan was approved by the Israeli political echelons, leaving two advance stages needed for its implementation: negotiations and agreement in principle with the Iranians about this structure of operation, the type and amount of the required arms, and the size of the down payment and stages of operation; and presenting the entire matter to the Americans for their approval." The document describes meetings between Israeli, Iranian, and American elements held during 1986.

More Arrests, Seizures in Extremist Group Case

JN0410205592 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2010 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman carried within the "Panorama" program]

[Excerpts] Judicial sources have told our radio that another four people have been arrested and a quantity of weapons and ammunition seized in relation to the case of the extremist Islamic Mobilization Youth Organization [IMYO] network, with which Islamist Deputies Layth Shubaylat and Ya'qub Qirrish are suspected of involvement. The same sources added that the arrests, the seizure of weapons, and the seizure of the network's archives and organizational and military plans were carried out in three houses in the capital under the supervision of State Security Court Prosecutor Muhannad Hijazi. The sources noted that the seized documents provide evidence that the organization was planning to carry out operations inside Jordan. [passage omitted]

In a statement issued in London today, Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, admitted that he supported the IMYO. He stressed, however, that he did not intend to overthrow the regime in Jordan.

Shakir—U.S. Military Hardware Not Sent to Iraq

JN0210212392 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] Answering a question from the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY on reports carried by world news agencies citing statements made yesterday by David Obey, head of the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee, claiming that some U.S. military hardware received by Jordan was sent to Iraq in February and March 1991, during the Gulf crisis, His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, the prime minister and defense minister, said: These claims are completely false and absolutely groundless. Since the end of the Iraq-Iran war, he added, Jordan has not sent any military hardware of any kind to Iraq.

His excellency concluded: I am afraid these statements are simply a repeat of similar claims that were made immediately following the end of the Gulf war and proven false to everybody.

More on Foreign Minister's UNGA Address

JN0210150792 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Muhammad al-Khatib report from New York on Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir's address to the UN General Assembly on 1 October—passages within quotation marks are recorded passages from Abu-Jabir's speech]

[Text] Delivering Jordan's speech to the UN General Assembly [UNGA] yesterday, Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir reviewed the bases of Jordanian policy and Jordan's position toward regional and international issues in the post-cold war era.

Dr. Abu-Jabir said that no sooner had the world seen an end to the ideological confrontation between East and West when racial, tribal, and religious conflicts surfaced. Consequently, world organizations must take measures to contain these conflicts and organize the transition to a new phase.

The foreign minister then touched on Jordan's role in peacekeeping operations in various parts of the world. He said: "Jordan, which believes in collective action, UN principles, and a world dominated by peace, security, and stability, expresses its pride in the confidence bestowed on it when it was invited to join the peacekeeping troops in various hotbeds of tension in the world—Croatia and Cambodia—and to send observers to Angola and Somalia. Thus, my country believes in the need to support the United Nations so that it can successfully fulfill its principal tasks, which were stipulated in the UN Charter; namely, to establish the foundations for peace and security in the world and to provide the means of well-being and progress to the peoples of the world."

The foreign minister praised the efforts made by the United Nations and its secretary general, Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, to make and preserve peace. He referred to the peace agenda drafted by the secretary general and its points, which aim at improving the world organization's efficiency.

Dr. Abu-Jabir then discussed the Palestine question—the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict—and the Palestinian people's tragedies that resulted from that conflict. He said Jordan had to put up with the major burden resulting from the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Dr. Abu-Jabir also spoke about the Arab-Israeli peace process which began last year in Madrid. He said Jordan pursued that process out of its belief in the need to establish a just, comprehensive, and permanent peace in the region; and out of its belief in the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination, including the right to establish their independent state on their national soil, and the right of the states in the region to live within recognized borders.

Dr. Abu-Jabir said: "These peace principles are based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338, which provide for the return of the occupied Arab territories—including Jordanian territory and the Golan Heights—in exchange for peace, just as they underline the necessity for Israel to pull out of Arab Jerusalem."

The foreign minister said that justice, sustainability, and comprehensiveness must form the building blocks of a Middle East peace settlement. These components of peace are interlinked and inseparable. Regarding Israel's measures in the occupied Arab territories, the minister added that while the peace process is underway, Israel deplorably pursues a policy of repression and oppression against the Palestinian people, including an unrelenting settlement drive. If the new Israeli Government is truly interested in peace, it will have to bind itself by the fourth Geneva Convention as it pertains to the occupied Arab territory, cease settlement construction, and implement UN Security Council Resolution 425 calling for its withdrawal from occupied Lebanese territory.

Regarding economic sanctions against Iraq, Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir said that the UN resolutions were never meant to cause deprivation to the Iraqi people or put Iraq at the risk of partition.

The foreign minister went on to say: "Jordan, which is bound by Security Council resolutions and wants to see a peaceful end to the traces of the Gulf crisis, would like to reiterate the need to work toward relieving the suffering of the Iraqi people and safeguarding Iraq's territorial integrity as an integrated entity overlooking the Gulf. Nobody's interests, neither in the region nor beyond, stand to be advanced by the breakup of Iraq or by the continuing hardship experienced by its people."

The minister expressed Jordan's regret over the emergence of a new crisis in the region, namely the dispute between the United Arab Emirates and the Islamic Republic of Iran, which does not recognize the former's sovereignty over the islands of Abu Musa and Tunb al-Kubra and Tunb al-Sughra.

Israeli Arab Delegation Praises King's Stance

JN0410170392 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
4 Oct 92 p 23

[By Jumanah Halasah]

[Text] A Palestinian delegation of Arab citizens from 1948-occupied Palestine has arrived in Amman to offer congratulations to His Majesty King Husayn on his safe return home.

In statements to AL-RA'Y, delegation members stressed the importance of relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples in terms of history, fate, and unity. They hailed His Majesty King Husayn as an Arab leader who is eager to adopt Arab causes and serve his nation.

Delegation head Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, who is the chairman of the national committee of local Arab authorities—municipalities and local councils—said his majesty the king is a talented Arab leader who was able to lead his country to peace and development despite the scarcity of natural resources in Jordan. King Husayn is the greatest supporter of the Palestine question among all Arab leaders, and he has made Jordan a country for all Arabs.

He added: We are here today to extend congratulations to His Majesty King Husayn on the success of the surgery he underwent and his safe return home.

He said: We believe in a just, comprehensive, full, and permanent peace for all Arab countries and for the Palestine question, and we believe in the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people.

He added that peace has become real as a result of the latest Israeli elections. All Israelis and Arabs who elected the leftist party were supporters and advocates of peace. We believe that peace needs more time, and may face progress and setbacks before it goes ahead. What is important is to not waste this chance for peace.

He added that the Israeli people want peace and stability because they have become tired of wars and sufferings, and because of the deteriorating economic situation.

In a recent statement, the Israeli prime minister blamed the Likud for their slogan of peace for peace, and said this is something impossible. The Israeli prime minister added that peace with Egypt had led Israel to cede Sinai in return for peace. It is in the interest of Israel and the Arab people to realize peace and stability in the region.

Et Tira Mayor Tariq 'Abd-al-Hayy said the feelings of Israeli Arabs over the illness of his majesty were no different from the feelings of Jordanian Arabs. The king enjoys broad support among the Israeli Arab masses who are part of the Arab nation. We in Palestine follow up on Arab developments in general, and those relating to the Palestinian people in particular. We support his majesty the king because he is the only Arab leader who sympathizes with the Arab and Palestinian causes, particularly his latest position on the Gulf war. He described King Husayn's position as clear and frank. He said he believes that peace with Israel leads the Israelis to melt into Arab society, and this is not in the interest of the governments [not further identified]. We support the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to set up their independent state.

He asserted that the warm reception accorded to His Majesty King Husayn amounts to a popular referendum and a show of large-scale and sweeping support, whether some people like it or not; that his majesty has linked his fate to that of the nation through his positions; that he enjoys the support of the Palestinian people; and that he has been the patron of the oppressed since the catastrophe took place.

We support the establishment of a Palestinian state beside Jordan and Israel, with East Jerusalem as its capital. Therefore, we reject all the proposals we have heard about Jordan being an alternative homeland.

Et Taiyiba Mayor Rafiq al-Haj Yahya said: I cannot find words to describe his majesty the king or the Jordanians' great love for the leader of their homeland. He added that no one can deny his majesty's efforts to embrace the displaced Palestinian Arab people, who, I believe, will never forget his generous positions. Neither any Palestinian nor any Muslim in the Arab world, he added, will forget his majesty's efforts to embrace and innovate al-Aqsa Mosque.

Shaykh Tawfiq 'Asaliyah, president of the Arab Islamic Court of Appeals, said: We visited Jordan to congratulate his majesty the king on his safe return to the Arab and Islamic nations. He added: Jordan and Palestine have deep-rooted relations, which cannot be ignored or severed in any way; that the two peoples cannot be separated; and that the interaction between the two peoples has no semblance in any neighboring people. Therefore, he added, these links should be strengthened to achieve the common goals and that it is in the Arabs' interest to unite and strengthen the ties to follow the example of the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples.

Kafr Manda Mayor Muhammad Zaydan said that the National Committee was formed in 1976 as a result of the Israeli authorities' discrimination against Israeli Arabs in 1948-occupied Palestine and that no individual can face the authority. The National committee, he said, is now dealing with the Arab citizens' local and political issues and represents Arab interests. As a result, the masses abandoned their fear and surrender, took a defiant position, and proved to be adhering to and translating their Arabism. He added that the Arabs of 1948-occupied Palestine number some 800,000 citizens, including 60 Arab and Druze local councils and five municipalities. Three local councils are also expected to be turned into municipalities.

Et Tira Mayor Tariq 'Abd-al-Hayy said that it is in the interest of Arabs in 1948-occupied Palestine to mobilize their Arab votes for equality and just peace, to unify Arab ranks, and to learn from the past and find a unified Arab ballot.

Seizure of Iraqi Assets, PRC Role Denounced

JN0510134392 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
5 Oct 92 pp. 1, 23

[Editorial: "Pirates of the New World Order]

[Text] One cannot but ridicule and express anger and contempt at the extent of international legitimacy practices and the organized assault on ethics and morals, for the sake of which the United Nations was established, and which this organization has pledged to protect to deter oppression, realize justice, and protect one human being from another.

The latest action by this legitimacy, led by the United States, which presides over the new world order, is the aggression against the assets of the Iraqi people—assets with which these people are meant to obtain baby milk for their children, medicine for their sick, as well as bread, warmth, and peace of mind.

A three-party gang comes forward and steals these assets so it can use them to spend on acts of sabotage, looting, and espionage carried out by UN employees, despite the fact that these UN employees are members of U.S., British, and French intelligence organizations.

Indeed, it is no secret if we say that there is an undeniable Israeli role in this action, especially after what Schwarzkopf has said in his memoirs about Israel's role in the 30-state aggression on Iraq and the Iraqis.

The United States claims it is seizing Iraq's assets so they can be used to fund UN activities in Iraq. We ask: Why does not this country pay its debts to the international organization instead of perpetrating this barbaric aggression against the hungry children of Iraq and its sick people, who are waiting for medicine? Why does not the UN Security Council issue something on Washington's refusal to live up to its commitments.

It is regrettable that the UN Security Council resolution was approved by 14 countries, none of which feels any shame over the temptation and bribery to which it has succumbed or the blackmail to which it has been exposed.

It is also regrettable to hear the Chinese representative's denunciation of the resolution while he did not dare to vote against it. It is as though he and his leaders have forgotten the expression "paper tigers."

We do not know who is the paper tiger. Is it the U.S. decisionmaker who imposes his decisions on great China, including its billion people and long deeply rooted history? Or is it the Chinese decisionmaker who neither dares to confront what is imposed on him by the United States nor has the power to say even a small "no," not to save the children of Iraq but to defend China's pride and the dignity of the Chinese people, after having discovered that Russia has sold everything and cares for nothing?

Bayt Yahun Blast Targets SLA Official

NC0410121292 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1155 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] Here is a report from the news desk: Our correspondent in the security strip reported a short while ago that an explosion occurred at the Bayt Yahun crossing gate at 1300 today. The explosion was targeted against a South Lebanese Army position.

Our correspondent adds that Israeli helicopters are now flying over the scene of the explosion.

[Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic at 1155 GMT adds in a relevant report: "It turned out that the operation that was carried out a short while ago against a motorcade, or rather an enemy mechanized patrol, at the Bayt Yahun crossing point in the central sector of the border strip was targeted against a security official in the [South Lebanese Army] militia. The official's car, a white Mercedes 280, was burned. Columns of smoke are seen rising from the area, and ambulances are transporting casualties. The intensity of the artillery exchange has meanwhile decreased."]

Surrounding Area Under 'Fierce' Shelling

NC0410122192 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1137 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] Here is a dispatch from our correspondent in the south: [words indistinct] at 1250 today, the device went off under a joint Israeli enemy and agent militia mechanized patrol at the Bayt Yahun crossing point in the central sector of the security strip.

The device exploded [words indistinct] killing all the personnel inside it. Columns of smoke are seen rising from the crossing gate. Ambulances rushed to the scene to evacuate the wounded.

Meanwhile, Israeli artillery units positioned on the hills overlooking the central sector's villages are conducting a fierce and violent shelling of the area surrounding the hills of Bayt Yahun, Bra'shit, and Haddathah, which are also coming under shells fired by the men of the resistance. Many shells have landed in residential areas in Haddathah, 'Ayta al-Jabal, Tibnin, and Haris. A total of 10 shells have landed in Haddathah proper.

The artillery exchange has not stopped. Enemy helicopters began flying over the area a few moments ago. They are using heavy- caliber machine guns in raking the area. We will keep you posted.

Two Killed, Five Injured

NC0410144392 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 1430 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] Two people were martyred and five others injured when the Bayt Yahun crossing point was attacked with RPGs from a hill to the west of the point this afternoon. Personnel manning the crossing point opened fire while South Lebanese Army forces shelled a number of villages adjacent to the western sector of the border area. The Islamic Resistance claimed responsibility for this attack.

Hizballah Claims Attacks on SLA

NC0410150892 Paris AFP in English 1450 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] Tyre, Oct 4 (AFP) - The pro-Iranian Hizballah said Sunday it had launched two attacks against the Israeli proxy militia in southern Lebanon, killing an unspecified number of militiamen and wounding three officers.

A spokesman for the Muslim fundamentalists told AFP that a commando unit had exploded a bomb wounding three South Lebanon Army (SLA) intelligence officers in a passing car near Bayt Yahun in the corridor linking the Israeli and SLA controlled "security zone" to the rest of Lebanon.

Security sources in south Lebanon confirmed the attack in the northern part of the zone, but had no details of casualties.

Earlier, Hizballah fighters attacked a nearby SLA post at Haddathah, killing several militiamen.

Israeli Army gunners shelled villages near the zone's border in retaliation and SLA units searched the area, crossing into Lebanon.

Nine people, including an Irish peacekeeper, two SLA fighters and four Hizballah guerrillas, were killed Tuesday in what the SLA described as the heaviest assault on their positions by Muslim fundamentalists for several years and shelling that ensued.

Two days later at least one Hizballah member was injured in an Israeli helicopter attack on a guerrilla stronghold in the area.

Resistance Gives Details of Operations

NC0510085792 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 5 Oct 92

[Text] The Islamic Resistance issued a statement last night giving details about the two resistance operations carried out yesterday. The statement said: On the birthday of Imam al-'Askari [one of the Shiites' 12 imams], may peace be upon him, and relying on God almighty, the Islamic Resistance continued its qualitative strikes against the Zionist enemy and its agents. Following the recent Rshaf operation and the attack against 12 positions [not further specified], the Islamic Resistance yesterday dealt a painful blow to the enemy and its midget agents as part of its holy jihad against them.

The statement added: Time has come for these agents to realize that the enemy's fortifications cannot protect it, far less the agents, whom the enemy regards as dispensable and places at the forefront of its fortified positions. We have said it before, and we say it again: The resistance's arm is long and capable. None of our usurped villages is beyond our security range, and all agents, hirelings, and occupiers will be pursued.

The Islamic Resistance statement added: Yesterday [as heard], the resistance took a qualitative and advanced step forward, retaliating for all the hearts that senior agent Husayn 'Abd-al-Nabi caused to bleed and the eyes that he caused to shed tears. The resistance sought revenge for our aged fathers and grandfathers, on whom this agent practiced all types of repression and humiliation. It sought revenge for the southern women, whose honor and dignity this agent violated, and for the farmers and villagers, whose crops, their only source of living, he burned.

The statement added: Announcing the murder of a group of senior agents, the heroic Islamic Resistance knows well that one of the mainstays of the army of agents has collapsed, a pillar that was erected by all types of repression, terrorism, and criminal acts. Yesterday's operation provided new evidence that the army of agents is nearing collapse and gave a fresh practical warning to all the agents to stay away from the Israeli satan, to which they sold themselves. If not, the hands of the resistance and the fire of their guns will be their fastest road to hell. The Islamic Resistance renews its earlier call to the agents to leave the Lahd [South Lebanese] Army and its readiness to forgive those who turn themselves in to the resistance men.

Detailing the operation, the statement read: The group of loyalty to resistance martyrs Ghalib Harb and Hasan Salman at 1245 yesterday carried out two attacks. The first was against a group of Lahd and Israeli intelligence officers at the Bayt Yahun crossing. In a daring and surprise attack, the mujahidin finished off those present at the crossing, including Husayn 'Abd-al-Nabi, Fawzi al- Saghir, Hasib Farhat, and others. Agent Husayn 'Abd-al-Nabi was identified among the dead officers. The crossing's installations, turned into a ball of fire, were destroyed. The second attack, carried out simultaneously by other resistance groups, came against the Bayt Yahun position, which provides direct protection for the crossing. The mujahidin used every kind of medium- and heavy- caliber weapon, destroying the position's emplacements and silencing its fire. The attackers brought the position under full firing control, destroying five ramparts and two heavy-caliber gun emplacements. The attack against the position lasted until after the attack against the crossing, preventing the troops manning the position from assisting the agents at the crossing.

Concluding, the Islamic Resistance statement pledged to the imam [the 12th, whom the Shiites believe will return], may God speed his holy advent; leader Khamene'i; the greatest Islamic Resistance martyr [former Hizballah Secretary General 'Abbas al-Musawi]; and all our martyrs and oppressed folk to keep up the line of holy resistance until victory and full liberation.

PFLP-GC's Jibril Cited on Israeli Pilot Arad

NC0410123592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command [PFLP—GC], said that he met Israeli pilot Ron Arad after his plane was downed in southern Lebanon in (?1986). He added that Hizballah is holding Arad, who was in good health at that time. He added, however, that he is not certain about Arad's fate. Jibril did not refer to the location where he met Arad.

Jibril said he is prepared to appear before any court in a neutral state, like Switzerland, to testify in connection with the Lockerbie incident.

Foreign Minister Al-Ma'luf on Peace Talks Results

NC0210185692 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Nasri al-Ma'luf stated today that the peace talks so far have led to neither negative nor positive results, even the Syrian-Israeli talks.

During a news conference, al-Ma'luf noted that what is required is that no one stops the negotiations, because the time has not yet come to issue a final verdict. He pointed out that the situation in the south will remain unchanged as long as UN Resolution 425 is not implemented. He said that efforts are being made to revive the Arab Tripartite Committee [comprising Saudi Arabia, Algeria, and Morocco], because it has a continued role to play according to the al-Ta'if accord, which stipulated that the committee is entitled to call for the Arab summit from which the al- Ta'if talks stemmed [sentence as heard].

Shammas Speaks to UNGA on Peace, Economy

NC0210184892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Dispatch by Nuhad al-Hayik from United Nations Headquarters in New York]

[Text] Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, Foreign Ministry secretary general and chairman of the Lebanese delegation to the 47th session of the UN General Assembly [UNGA], said that Lebanon has made an irrevocable commitment to the peace process to bring about comprehensive peace. He said Lebanon has withstood and still is withstanding the repercussions of the Arab-Israeli dispute.

He reiterated that Lebanon categorically refuses to settle the Palestinians on its territory, because this runs counter to its national interests and to the right to self-determination.

Shammas enumerated Lebanon's sufferings as a result of the Israeli aggression and the continued occupation of the south. He stressed the need to implement Resolution 425 on Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Lebanese territories. Speaking before the UN General Assembly, Shammas said:

[Begin Shammas recording] 1. The presence of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in Lebanon. In this context, we reiterate our categorical rejection of the settlement of Palestinians on our territory, because this runs counter to our national interests, on the one hand, and the right to self-determination on the other.

2. The Israeli attack on Beirut International Airport on 28 December 1968.

3. The Israeli Army's devastation of south Lebanon in 1978.

4. The all-out Israeli devastation of Lebanon in 1982—a devastation which included Beirut, the only Arab capital ever occupied by Israel.

5. The killing of 150,000 people and wounding of 400,000 others—some of whom are now handicapped—and the material damage estimated at billions of dollars. Add to this the human tragedies resulting from emigration and evacuation during 16 years of bloody incidents in Lebanon.

6. The continued Israeli occupation of a dear part of Lebanese territory in the south and western al-Biqa'. As such, the occupation and the accompanying practices and aggression violate the norms and principles of international legitimacy. [end recording]

Shammas called for entrusting the UN forces with a more effective role and for involving the United Nations in the peace process, since it is the organization accredited by international legitimacy. He said the Lebanese authorities are prepared to shoulder their full responsibility to establish security. He affirmed that the Lebanese Army has regained its strength and is now capable of playing its role in imposing state sovereignty on the national soil, up to the internationally recognized Lebanese borders.

Ambassador Shammas said the Lebanese delegation [to the peace talks] received assertions from the Israeli negotiators that Israel has no plans for or ambitions in Lebanese territory and waters. Shammas said:

[Begin Shammas recording] The Lebanese delegation to the bilateral peace talks has received assertions from the Israeli delegation negotiating on behalf of its government that Israel has no plans for or ambitions concerning Lebanese territory and waters. This leads us to hope that Israel will express these assertions practically by completely withdrawing from the occupied Lebanese territories. [end recording]

Shammas then reminded the Assembly that Lebanon is still waiting impatiently for the world to honor the regional and international promises to assist it in reviving its economy:

[Begin Shammas recording] The Lebanese are still waiting impatiently for the regional and international promises to help them put the wheel of their economy in motion and revive their national economy to bear fruit. Abstention from supporting development and reconstruction efforts until this moment is regrettable, particularly since hundreds of millions of dollars came to Lebanon in the past to fan destructive disputes on its soil. [end recording]

Ambassador Shammas hoped the Arab and international fund on Lebanon's reconstruction will be developed, because it represents the effective initiative to revive the Lebanese economy. He noted that the government is continuing its efforts to remove the effects of the war. Through these efforts, the hostages case was closed thanks to the UN secretary general's and his special envoy's efforts as well as the responsiveness of parties concerned, he said.

The Lebanese speech did not mention the Syrian role in Lebanon, and, for the first time in years, it touched on Lebanon's stand on international issues, including the crises in Yugoslavia and Somalia, world development, and environmental issues.

Shammas concluded that Lebanon today is returning to the international community as a model for steadfastness despite suffering.

Opposition Calls For General Strike 10, 11 Oct

NC0310210392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] Opposition parties and movements called on all the Lebanese to observe a general strike on 10 and 11 October, calling for 11 October to be a day of general mourning for freedom and urging the Lebanese to stay home during the strike.

Agreement Reached on Redeploying Forces in Lebanon

PM0210154892 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Oct 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "After Contacts Between Damascus and Washington, Agreement on Syrian Forces' Redeployment in Lebanon"]

[Text] Beirut, Paris—Well-informed sources revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that recent contacts among Damascus, Washington, and Beirut resulted in an agreement on the Syrian forces' redeployment in implementation of the al-Ta'if accord.

The sources said that discussions are currently focusing on a date for implementing this step so as to reflect a gesture of goodwill toward U.S. President George Bush, who is seeking a second term in office.

The sources expected the redeployment steps to take place during the second half of the month. They did not rule out the possibility of its being implemented on the eve of the next round of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. The sources pointed out that Staff Colonel Ghazi Kan'an, director of the security and reconnaissance affiliate of the Syrian forces operating in Lebanon, held talks with Lebanese Defense Minister Michel al-Murr the day before yesterday. The talks dealt with the redeployment question and the Lebanese Army's ability to fill the vacuum.

At another level, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that religious and political leaders were able to persuade Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni to go back on his resignation.

They said that al-Husayni will set three slogans for his campaign if he decides to run for speaker of the Chamber of Deputies. They are: no settlement of the Palestinians in Lebanon; national reconciliation and an end to the complications resulting from the parliamentary elections and the errors made while implementing the al-Ta'if accord; implementation of the al-Ta'if accord as it stands, without addition or reduction.

Al-Shar' Links Chemical Treaty to Nuclear Treaty

JN0210194992 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' made the following statement to a Syrian Arab Television correspondent: Arab foreign ministers held a meeting during which they discussed the peace talks and process. They also discussed the treaty banning chemical weapons and agreed to link the Arab states' endorsement of the treaty to Israel's endorsement of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

The Arab foreign ministers also stated that the boycott on Israel should not be lifted until Israel implements the resolutions of international legitimacy regarding the peace process and withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

Foreign Minister al-Shar' also held a meeting with the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates [UAE], in which they discussed the dispute over Abu Musa Island between the UAE and Iran. They asserted that the dispute should be resolved by political means and good-neighborly relations.

Foreign Minister al-Shar' returned to Damascus this morning from Rabat at the end of a brief visit on his way back from New York after participating in the 47th session of the UN General Assembly. Al-Shar' met with King Hassan II of Morocco last night.

Foreign Minister al-Shar' was seen off at Rabat's international airport by Dr. Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, senior Moroccan Foreign Ministry officials, as well as the Syrian charge d'affaires and embassy staff in Rabat.

Joint Water Committee Ends Meetings 4 Oct

JN0410094592 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0820 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] Damascus, 4 Oct (SANA)—The joint Syrian-Iraqi-Turkish technical committee in charge of regional water, especially waters from the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers, concluded its meetings here yesterday.

No minutes were signed during these meetings, because the Turkish side said it had to consult with its government before it could reply to the Syrian and Iraqi request to fix a date for concluding the joint committee's work and submit the necessary proposals to the relevant ministers in the three countries.

French Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit 3 Oct

JN0310130892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas arrived in Damascus at 1330 today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', high-ranking Foreign Ministry officials, the French ambassador in Damascus, and members of the French Embassy welcomed him at Damascus International Airport.

Makes Statement Upon Arrival

JN0310164892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad met with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas at 1630 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended the meeting.

Mr. Dumas arrived in Damascus at 1330 GMT today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. Foreign Minister

Faruq al-Shar', high-ranking Foreign Ministry officials, the French ambassador in Damascus, and members of the French Embassy staff welcomed Foreign Minister Dumas at Damascus' international airport.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Dumas expressed his pleasure upon visiting Damascus and praised the strong friendly relations between France and Syria.

Dumas said: I recently met with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' at the United Nations, and we discussed a number of issues during our meeting. He added: It is beneficial to visit Damascus again during this mini-tour of the Middle East so we can continue our talks.

Dumas noted: Our meetings with Syrian officials may deepen discussions made earlier, both during my recent visit to Damascus and my recent meeting with Foreign Minister al-Shar' at the United Nations.

Dumas said talks during this visit will deal with bilateral relations, regional issues, the peace process, and preparations for the upcoming talks.

Views Bilateral Relations With al-Asad

JN0310194792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad met with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas at 1630 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended the meeting. Talks dealt with bilateral relations and cooperation, the peace process in the Middle East, and a number of regional and international issues.

Terms Visit 'Extremely Useful,' Departs

JN0410102292 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0850 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] Damascus, 4 Oct (SANA)—French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas left Damascus at 0730 today at the conclusion of a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, the French ambassador, and the embassy staff.

In a statement to SANA, Dumas described his visit to Damascus as positive and extremely useful.

He said: I was honored to meet with President Hafiz al-Asad. I held talks with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and got an encouraging impression about these talks and the Syrian leaders' thinking vis-a-vis the current peace talks.

Dumas added: The talks dealt with several issues. We spoke about regional issues. Syria and France hope that this region will witness an era of stability and peace. We also talked about all that concerns the Arab and Islamic countries.

Concluding, Dumas thanked the Syrian officials, headed by President Hafiz al-Asad for the hospitality and kind reception accorded him.

Afghanistan

Talks on Withdrawal of Dostam Troops From Kabul

Sunday Deadline Set

BK0210113892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0734 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 2 (AFP)—The mojahedin commission that drafted a ceasefire agreement for Kabul in August has set a Sunday deadline for the withdrawal of militia units from the Afghan capital, the Hezb-e Eslami faction said Friday.

In a communique, Hezb, which has long been pressing for a militia pullback from Kabul, said the commission was threatening to "force" out the units if they failed to meet the deadline.

A delegation from the commission, headed by Engineer Mahmood, conveyed the decision to Hezb leader Golboddin Hekmatyar at his military base near Kabul on Thursday, the communique said.

A militia withdrawal has been a key demand for Hekmatyar, whose forces subjected Kabul to fierce rocket fire in August that left thousands of casualties.

"We announce to all mojahedin to join hands for the implementation of the decision of the peace commission through the use of force," the Hezb-run AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY quoted a commission statement as saying.

Separately, Hezb alleged that Uzbek militia led by 'Abdol Rashid Dostam, together with Ismaili forces and Jamiat-e Eslami Shura-e Nazar mojahedin, attacked Hezb bases in northern Baghlan Province Friday.

There was no independent confirmation of the report, which spoke of fierce fighting.

Afghanistan's interim President Borhanoddin Rabbani said in Islamabad last week that Dostam's militia—which only sided with the mojahedin in the last weeks of the Afghan civil war—had been merged with Afghan Government forces.

Earlier this month, Hekmatyar and Rabbani agreed that Afghanistan's future government would be elected by a shura, or council, comprising delegates from all provinces.

Hezb Says Government Seeks Delay

NC0310181592 Paris AFP in English 1730 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 3 (AFP)—Afghan Government leaders have approached a mojahedin commission that brokered the ceasefire in Afghanistan to extend by a week the deadline for withdrawing militia from Kabul, the AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) said Saturday.

The agency, run by the Hezb-e Eslami faction of Golboddin Hekmatyar said interim President Borhanoddin Rabbani and Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud had contacted members of the commission over the extension.

On Friday, the ANA had reported that the commission had set Sunday as the deadline for the pullout of militia and communist elements from Kabul. Separately, ANA said Hezb-e Eslami forces had killed many militiamen in fighting over the last three days in the western province of Herat bordering Iran.

Cease-Fire Extended in Kabul

LD0410165692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] The Kabul cease-fire between Afghan Government forces and Hekmatyar's party has been extended until next Sunday. The decision to renew the cease-fire was made following mediation efforts by the Nangarhar peace delegation and an agreement by the two sides. Hekmatyar has threatened to renew his missile attacks on Kabul if the militia forces under the command of General Dostam do not leave the city. The Afghan Government has announced that these forces are Defense Ministry forces and that there is, in fact, no such thing as Gen. Dostam's forces in Kabul.

Withdrawal of Dostam Troops Said Agreed Upon

LD0410165992 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] A Voice of America correspondent from Pakistan has reported that the peace delegation from three provinces [words indistinct] held talks on 2 and 3 October with Borhanoddin Rabbani, head of the temporary Government of Afghanistan; Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud; and Golboddin Hekmatyar, leader of the Hezb-e Eslami of Afghanistan. [Word indistinct], head of the peace delegation, is satisfied with the talks held with the leaders. Ahmad Shah Mas'ud told the peace delegation from three republics that the military units of Uzbek General Dostam will start leaving Kabul by 11 October and the removal will be completed within three to four days. Hekmatyar has emphasized that if the Uzbek military units do not leave Kabul by 11 October, the attacks on Kabul will resume.

Hekmatyar Forces Attack in Herat

LD0310165192 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] According to the latest report, Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami forces have attacked the positions of government forces in the (Gozareh) in Herat province. They have inflicted heavy casualties.

Announcing this, an Afghan Defense Ministry spokesman said: Golboddin Hekmatyar's forces were able to seize some government forces' positions around (Gozareh) yesterday, during the first hours of attack. Government forces, however, have regained the lost positions and captured 30 members of Hekmatyar's forces.

Clashes Continue

NC0510075192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Oct 92

[Text] With the extension of the cease-fire between government forces and Hekmatyar's party in Kabul, the city of Herat became the scene of heavy clashes between Hekmatyar's and government forces.

Reports from Herat state that UN employees have been in safe havens for the past two days and that Hekmatyar's forces targeted the city with missiles.

Unofficial figures put the number of dead and wounded in the clashes at over 300.

Rabbani Comments Visits to Pakistan, Iran

LD0210145192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council and president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, took part today in a news conference held at Delkosha Palace, headquarters of the Presidency of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

A BIA correspondent reports that esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, in his brief talk, shed light on the results of his official visits to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and added: The friendly and Islamic countries of Iran and Pakistan, which supported our righteous jihad and provided suitable grounds for our refugees, are still supporting the victory of our jihad, and they [words indistinct] would not spare any assistance to our Muslim nation.

We were warmly welcomed in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and we held useful talks in a fraternal and Islamic atmosphere with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. At these talks Pakistan agreed to extend assistance to us in various [words indistinct] technical and commercial fields.

Esteemed Borhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council and president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, added: Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, president of the Republic of Pakistan, explicitly emphasized that no force will be allowed to use the territory of Pakistan to carry out subversive actions against the Islamic State of Afghanistan. Ghulam Ishaq Khan also said: Our varied cooperation will be made directly with the Islamic State of Afghanistan and [words indistinct] any cooperation for the consolidation of the Islamic state and (?do our best to meet) the urgent needs of the people of Afghanistan.

Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani added: The leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran also warmly welcomed the high-ranking delegation of Afghanistan. The talks with President Hojjat ol-Eslam Val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and Mr. Khamenei, leader of the Islamic Revolution, were very useful and constructive. The Iranian side agreed to cooperate with the Islamic State of Afghanistan in various fields. The Islamic Republic of Iran gave assistance in the form of an urgent banking credit of $50 million to the Islamic State of Afghanistan so that by utilization of this money action can be taken to meet the immediate needs of the people.

Regarding the agreement concluded with Iran, esteemed Professor Rabbani said: Actual cooperation in commercial, cultural and economic areas will be made, and both sides agreed [words indistinct] to exchange lecturers, students, [words indistinct], and a branch of the Iranian Bank of Export will be opened in Kabul [words indistinct].

Islamic Party Says BBC Reporters To Be Banned

LD0110190892 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 1400 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Statement by the Islamic Party of Afghanistan; place of issue and date not given; read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Anything said by BBC regarding my news conference is all falsehood and fabrication. BBC is attributing to me words that I did not speak. Such false propaganda unleashed against the Islamic Party of Afghanistan [Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan] is being increasingly intensified. We have decided that henceforth no foreign reporter of BBC should be allowed to enter Afghanistan, and that henceforth any Afghan who works for the BBC as a reporter must be arrested and treated as a spy.

We call on all mojahedin to treat BBC reporters in that way so that they give up their hostility toward Islam and Muslims and stop their false propaganda. By so doing, the mojahedin can stop the insurgency and sedition by the enemies of Islam.

'Abdol Rahim Wardak Appointed Chief of Staff

LD3009193392 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1630 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Announcement by the Defense Ministry of the Islamic State of Afghanistan issued in Kabul on 30 September]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

From the very start of the victory of the revolution the need for the creation of an Islamic and national army responding to the needs of security and defense of the country [word indistinct] was very strongly felt. [word indistinct] to establish the foundation for a structure that can meet the above objective it is required that the headquarters [word indistinct] of the Defense Ministry of the Islamic State of Afghanistan commences its operation in the light of the gains of the revolution.

On the basis of this principle and in accordance with a proposal by the Defense Ministry and the approval of the president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, a number of mojahed officers from [word indistinct] have been appointed to the following positions:

1. Esteemed General 'Abdol Rahim Wardak as chief of staff of the Armed Forces

2. Esteemed General Sayd Hasan as deputy defense minister

3. Esteemed General [word indistinct] as deputy defense minister

4. Mohammad Yunis Qanuni as general head of the [word indistinct] Security

5. Esteemed General Sayd Hasan [word indistinct] as general head of the Army's Inspection Department

6. Esteemed General Shahbaz Khan as general commander of artillery

7. Esteemed General 'Abdol Baqi as head of (?Jehadi) Personnel

8. Esteemed General Mohammad Na'em as head of Detection

9. Esteemed General Sayd Mohammad Shafi as head of Organization

10. Esteemed General Mohammad Eshaq Nuri as head of Planning

11. Esteemed General La'l Mohammad as Commander of Ground Forces Air Defense

12. Esteemed General Nematollah as head [words indistinct]

13. Esteemed General 'Abdol [word indistinct] Ranjbar as head of the Army (? Medical Health)

14. Esteemed General Hamesha Gol as head of communication

15. Esteemed General [words indistinct]

16. Esteemed General Besmillah Khan as deputy head in the General Inspection Department

17. Esteemed General Ahmad Khan as head of Chemistry and Gas [as heard]

18. Esteemed General 'Abdol [word indistinct] as head of the Inspection Department of the Air Forces

19. Esteemed General Asadollah as head of Inspection of the Land Forces

20. Esteemed General [words indistinct]

21. Esteemed General Ahmad (?Farid) as head of [word indistinct]

22. [words indistinct]

23. Esteemed General Mohammad Nabi as head of (?Engineering Department)

24. [words indistinct]

25. Esteemed Sayd Husyn [words indistinct]

26. Esteemed 'Abdol Qayum [word indistinct] as head of the Army Publication Department

27. Esteemed General [words indistinct] as commander of Air and Air Defense Forces

28. Esteemed General 'Abdorra'f Safi as Commander of the Central Army Corps

29. Esteemed General Mohammad Azam [words indistinct]

30. [words indistinct]

31. Esteemed General Serajoddin as deputy commander of the Military University

32. Esteemed General 'Ali Jan as commander of [word indistinct] communication

33. [words indistinct]

Council of Ministers Meets, Welcomes New Members

LD0410183392 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] Under the chairmanship of Engineer Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai, deputy prime minister and minister of internal affairs, the Council of Ministers held a meeting today in the Golkhana Presidential Palace. According to a BAKHTAR report, esteemed Engineer Shah Ahmadzai first welcomed new members of the cabinet who attended the session. He said: All our Muslim brothers who were with us during the jihad and have cooperated with us are our brothers. The Islamic State of Afghanistan values their experience and skill and hopes that their professional talent will be at the service of people and the country at the present time.

On today's meeting, esteemed al-Haj Mohammad Siddique Chakri, minister of culture and information and secretary of the Council of Ministers, told the BAKHTAR reporter: During the meeting the quality and circumstances of the activities of the representatives of the Ministry of Refugee Affairs in the Embassies of Afghanistan in Pakistan and Iran were discussed. Certain decisions were made on the expansion of their activities. Decisions were also made about the salaries and maintenance of brothers associated with formations who are appointed in ministries, and the appropriate decisions were made on the salaries and maintenance of the bodyguards of ministers and deputy ministers. It was also decided that income tax on government employees salaries will be removed in 1371 [year ending 20 March 1993]. Other important issues were discussed and decisions were made.

Cabinet Views Constituent Assembly Membership

LD0310201992 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] A Leadership Council session, chaired by esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council and president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, was held today at Golkhana Palace, presidential headquarters of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. At the session, a number of important issues were discussed.

Esteemed Sayd Mohammad Ali Jawid, acting secretary and spokesman of the Leadership Council, spoke to BAKHTAR about the resolutions of today's session. He said: The following resolutions were passed at the session. The selection of members of the constituent assembly [hal wa aqd shura] is to be made in proportion to the population of a region, and details of this will be announced.

He continued: Delegations from the Islamic Conference Organization and the United Nations are to be invited to take part, as observers, in the constituent assembly. It has been decided that the Leadership Council can determine the specific number of members to take part in the constituent assembly.

Bangladesh

Indian Attempt To Deport 49 Across Border Foiled

BK0310035692 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] Bangladesgh Rifles, BDR, foiled another attempt of Indian Border Security Forces, BSF, to push 49 people into Bangladesh yesterday. Quoting official sources UNB [UNITED NEWS OF BANGLADESH] says the BSF men tried to deport the Indian nationals, including 25 women and three children, through the bordering areas of Saidpur, Dimapur and Daulatpur.

Police yesterday recovered the bodies of two people who were reportedly killed by Indian Border security Forces at (Dodagarhi) frontier near (Mimantak) of India on Tuesday [29 September]. Three people were killed by BSF personnel when they were fishing in the river Padma in Bangladesh territory. The body of the third could not be traced [words indistinct].

Ruling Party Protests

BK0210135292 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] The Bangladesh Nationalist Party [BNP] has strongly protested the Operation Push Back by the Indian Government and demanded its immediate stoppage. In a joint statement in Dhaka Thursday, two top leaders of the party—Zulmat Ali Khan and Akhtar Ahmed Siddqi—said the Indian Border Security Force is engaged in forcibly pushing the Indian Muslims to Bangladesh, violating international rules. They said the program of Operation Push Back have been strongly criticized even in India. The leaders are the vice chairman and the office secretary of BNP.

Agreement Reached With Burma on Repatriations

BK0110025092 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] Bangladesh and Myanmar [Burma] have agreed to continue the process of voluntary repatriation of Rohingya refugees to their homeland. The agreement was reached during the ninth round of official level talks between the two countries in the Akyab City of Myanmar. On his return to Dhaka last night, the leader of Bangladesh delegation told newsmen that both sides have also agreed on a number of issues relating to smooth repatriation of the refugees. In the meeting, Bangladesh submitted a fresh list of 25,670 Rohingyas to the Myanmar authorities. The Myanmar side has so far recommended a list of 4,558 persons for their return to Arakan. It was agreed at the meeting that the refugees, on return to their homeland, will be rehabilitated on their own properties. The tenth round of official talks on repatriation will be held in the later part of this month.

Rahman Returns From UN, Comments on Repatriation

BK0310033892 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman says he has found broad international eagerness for an early and voluntary return of the Rohingya refugees to Myanmar [Burma]. He was talking to newsmen in Dhaka yesterday on his return from New York after attending the current 47th session of the United Nations General Assembly. He said the world community is concerned over the presence of the big number of refugees in Bangladesh and is keen to see that the refugees go back to their country at the earliest. The foreign minister said he drew the attention of the international forum to the magnitude of the refugee problem in a speech at the UN General Assembly. He also discussed the matter with the important figures, including UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali. He said the international community has assured every possible assistance in resolving the Rohingya refugees problem.

India

Tension, Violence Reported in Kashmir Region

Troop Movements on Both Sides

BK0410162492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1249 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] JAMMU, India, Oct 4 (AFP)—India has begun reinforcing troops on a Kashmir border area with Pakistan after 14 soldiers of the two countries died there in skirmishes in the past week, defence officials here said Sunday.

They said the decision was prompted by alleged heavy Pakistani troop movement across the Pallanwala area in Jorian sector of the border, some 60 kilometres (35 miles) from Jammu, the winter capital of the northern state of Jammu and Kashmir.

The officials said 11 Pakistani and three Indian troops had been killed in the skirmishes at the Pallanwala area since Wednesday.

Three civilians, alleged to be Moslem militants infiltrating into the Moslem-majority state, claimed by India and Pakistan, were killed in the crossfire in the sporadic gunfire exchanges between the two armies during the period.

Indian Agirculture Minister Balram Jakhar and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, who is from Kashmir, after visiting Pallanwala told reporters here Sunday that New Delhi had informed Islamabad of "continued provocations" on the Kashmir border.

The two ministers, who came from New Delhi for a visit and were shown on state television visiting some 5,000 refugees from the affected area, however, did not elaborate.

A state government official in the meantime said that local authorities in Kashmir's nine border districts had taken steps as a precaution to restrict movement of residents within five kms (three miles) of the border in those regions.

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over the Kashmir controversy since independence from Britain in 1947.

India alleges that Pakistan is providing arms and military training to Moslem militants leading a guerrilla movement for the secession of the state from Indian rule.

Islamabad denies the allegation. It says it only extends moral and diplomatic support to a genuine campaign of Kashmiris for their right of self-determination.

Minister: Pakistan Aiding 'Terrorists'

BK0310161092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] The union minister for parliamentary affairs, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, has accused Pakistan of abetting and aiding terrorists in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir to destabilize the country. Addressing a public meeting in Rajauri today, he said because of Pakistan's uncertain politics, it is making Kashmir its target to divert the attention of its people from its failures. It has no sympathy with the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, the agriculture minister, Mr. Balram Jakhar, said that the central government is releasing 42 crore rupees to the state for taking out employment generation programs in the flood-affected areas and for restoration of water supply. He said 10,000 tons of rice, 8,000 tons of wheat and 5,000 kilo liters of kerosene are being released to the state on credit basis.

Militants gunned down three people, including an assistant subinspector of police in the Kashmir Valley, while security forces arrested 15 militants during operations since last night. Meanwhile, the Jammu District Magistrate has imposed restrictions on the movement of people near the Indo-Pak border in the district under Section 144 [preventing assembly of more than four people at a place].

Army Reportedly Kills 11 Civilians

BK0210162892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1323 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] Batakote, India, Oct 2 (AFP)—Indian army troops shot dead 11 civilians in this Kashmir village in reprisal for a Moslem militant ambush that left an officer and a soldier dead, police sources and witnesses said Friday.

Soldiers returning from a four-day search operation in a neighbouring village went on the rampage Thursday evening after the ambush, setting shops and houses on fire, residents said.

Eleven people, including three women, were dragged out of their houses and shot dead, they said.

Some 70 shops and houses were gutted and 25 cattle and sheep burned alive, the witnesses said, alleging the army refused to allow firefighters to enter the area.

Villagers gathered outside a police station in the nearby town of Handwara Friday, shouting anti-administration slogans and demanding an immediate probe into the incident.

"If you are going to prove that one person among the killed is a militant, you can arrest us all and do whatever you want," shouted Farooq Ahmed, a teacher who led a protest march to the station.

Police officers told the protestors an enquiry would be held and registered a complaint by villagers against the army.

The authorities promised 100,000 rupees (3,333 dollars) to the families of the 11 victims and a month's free rations to those who lost property in the arson.

Burned houses were still smouldering in the village Friday, almost 24 hours after the incident. Women wailed and beat their chests as they mourned their dead.

Indian security forces battling the bloody Moslem secessionist campaign in Kashmir have often been accused by human rights groups of persecuting civilians.

Thursday's incident in Batakote, about 60 kilometres (36 miles) north of Kashmir's summer capital of Srinagar, was one of the worst episodes of alleged excesses by security forces in recent months.

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) quoted Kashmir police chief Balwinder Singh Bedi as saying the victims died in the crossfire of a gunbattle between the army and security forces and putting the death toll at 10.

One soldier was killed, PTI said. Police sources who spoke on condition of anonymity said an officer and a soldier died in the ambush that preceded the rampage.

Kashmir Militant Leader Killed

BK0510035892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 5 Oct 92

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the security forces achieved a major breakthrough when they killed the self-styled deputy chief of a pro-Pakistan militant outfit. They also arrested another self-styled deputy chief commander of another outfit in the continuing search and combing operations in various parts of Srinagar city yesterday. The security forces also arrested general secretaries of the two banned organizations. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was also recovered.

7 Militants Killed

BK0410161492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] In Kashmir Valley, seven militants were killed while 18 militants were arrested by security forces in search operations since yesterday. An official spokesman said in Srinagar that four militants were killed in an encounter with the security forces in Srinagar. They were responsible for killing a BSF [Border Security Force] commandant on the 16th of July this year. The security forces recovered the body of a woman in (Khor) village, who was earlier abducted by the militants. The security forces also recovered 13 AK-47 rifles and a large quantity of ammunition.

Offical Notes Significant Improvement in Punjab

BK0510094492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 5 Oct 92

[Text] In Punjab, the law and order situation has significantly improved following the steps taken by the Government in the last few months. The police spokesman told our Amritsar correspondent that the situation is more or less normal and the fear of midnight knocks by terrorists in the villages has evaporated. The incidents of terrorist related crimes have gone down. Shops in towns and villages which use to down their shutters before sunset earlier now remain open till late in the evening. Traders from outside Punjab have also started returning to the state.

6 Punjab Militants Killed in Separate Encounters

BK0510034892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 5 Oct 92

[Text] In Punjab, six militants were killed in separate encounters with security forces since last evening. According to an official spokesman, three militants were killed in Ferozepore District last night. A large quantity of arms and ammunition besides explosive materials was recovered from the site.

4 Police Killed in Extremist Attack in Tripura

BK0410092092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] In Tripura, four policemen were killed and five injured in an attack by suspected ATTF [All Tripura Tribal Force] militants at the Ganganagar police outpost in South Tripura District this morning. Two of the injured are said to be in a serious condition. Reports say that the militants took away 16 rifles. Our Agartala correspondent understands that the constable on sentry duty colluded with the extremists and handed over arms and ammunition to them. When other police personnel came to know of the situation, there was an exchange of fire in which one extremist was killed. An intensive combing operation has been launched. The BSF [Border Security Force] has been alerted all along the border to prevent the culprits from escaping.

Sri Lankan President Premadasa Continues Visit

Notes Conditions for Talks With LTTE

BK0210104492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] The Sri Lankan president, Mr. Premadasa, said his government is not holding any negotiations now with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. Addressing a press conference in New Delhi today, he said any discussions with the militant groups will be held only when they stop using arms and agree to recognize the right of the other parties to contest elections. Mr. Premadasa said the problem of dealing with terrorism and extradition of the LTTE leader, Prabhakaran, for his trial in Rajiv Gandhi assassination case are two different issues and necessary procedures will be followed in this regard.

Describing his country's relations with the Narasimha Rao government as excellent, Mr. Premadasa said that New Delhi and Colombo have reached an understanding on the refugee issue which is working satisfactorily. He said several issues, including measures to combat terrorism, refugee problem, and other regional matters will be taken up at the December SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit in Dhaka. He said the study group on terrorism has recommended several steps, including setting up of a network of offices and information center for SAARC countries to deal with the menace. He also favored a free market and removal of visa restrictions for realizing the objectives of SAARC.

Holds Talks With Rao

BK0310082992 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0554 GMT 3 Oct 92

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 3 Oct (LANKAPUVATH)—The president of Sri Lanka, Ranasinghe Premadasa, and the prime minister of India Narasimha Rao had discussions on a series of matters concerning SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] when they met at Rastrapati Bhavan, Friday evening. The two leaders, who had a closed meeting without aides, were later joined by members of their delegations. The main focus of the discussion was on SAARC issues with emphasis on Indo-Sri Lanka interaction in these areas.

President Premadasa briefed the Indian prime minister on the progress of poverty alleviation commission. Dr. Venugopal, one of the Indian commissioners, was present. The Lankan president thanked prime minister Rao for meeting the commission and giving them valuable insights. He also briefed the Indian prime minister on the Sri Lanka experience, particularly of the Janasaviya [welfare] programme and the opening of garment factories and other industries in rural areas to provide employment to rural youth.

The Indian prime minister said that though poverty was endemic in South Asia, there were certain aspects and measures which were specific to individual countries. These needed to be carefully considered. There had been certain approaches to poverty alleviation like those advocated by Sri Lanka which really went to the grassroots. Mahatma Gandhi had galvanized the people. Every aspect of his work touched the common man. Present efforts should involve the people in like manner, Mr. Rao observed.

The Indian prime minister agreed with the Lankan president on the need to impart practical skills. They were more important than academic qualifications. The poverty alleviation commission should look at this aspect. It was important "to make people viable".

Both leaders agreed that stability was vital for success in poverty alleviation. The Indian prime minister commented that terrorism could find fertile soil in a nation when poverty was not dealt with.

Mr. Rao agreed with the Lankan president that there should be close cooperation in SAARC to eliminate terrorism. It was important not only to agree on appropriate measures in the context of SAARC, but also to carry them out.

Other SAARC measures discussed were the liberalisation of trade and the proposed signing of SAPTA—South Asia Preferential Trade Agreement—at the Dhaka summit. It was agreed that in the context of SAPTA it was essential for other measures of economic cooperation, such as joint ventures, technology transfers, etc. to be promoted.

The changes in SAARC working methods, the rationalisation of its activities, the establishment of cooperative relations with other regional and international organisations, reform of the secretariat and the South Asia Development Fund were other matters reviewed by the two leaders.

Prime minister Rao congratulated the Lankan president on the variety of initiatives that had been set in motion during Sri Lanka's chairmanship of SAARC.

President Premadasa thanked the Indian Prime Minister of his support and counsel. He felt that there was a fortunate configuration in South Asia that made such programmes possible.

The two leaders expressed the view that better relations had arisen among South Asian states.

Ends Visit, Leaves for Bhutan

BK0310051892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] The Sri Lankan president, Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa, has said there were no problems in relations with India and hoped that the relations between the two countries will further strengthen in the coming years. Mr. Premadasa, who concluded his three-day visit to India, told newsmen that he was able to discuss several issues those [as heard] concerning SAARC [South Asian Association For Regional Cooperation] and bilateral ones during what he described as a short and sweet visit.

The Sri Lankan leader left for Bhutan to continue his tour to SAARC nations. After a day's stay at Thimpu, Mr. Premadasa will go to Bangladesh. Mr. Premadasa was given a ceremonial send-off at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House]. The president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma; the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao; and the water resources minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla,saw him off.

Joint Statement Issued

BK0410125192 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1015 GMT 4 Oct 92

["OANA/pool" item—quotation marks as received]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 4 (LANKAPUVATH)—A joint statement was issued Saturday by the Sri Lanka and Indian Governments shortly before President Ranasinghe Premadasa left New Delhi for Bhutan after his two and a half day visit to India as chairman of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation].

His Excellency Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa, president of the Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka paid a state visit to India from 1-3 October 1992, in his capacity as chairman of the sixth summit of SAARC. The president of Sri Lanka was accompanied by Mrs. Hema Premadasa and senior officials.

"His excellency the president of Sri Lanka called on His Excellency Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, president of India. The two presidents reaffirmed the traditionally close and cordial relations between the two countries and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest. The president of Sri Lanka extended an invitation to the president of India to visit Sri Lanka in 1993 on the occasion of the 2300th anniversary of the arrival of Arahat Mahinda in Mihintale with the message of Buddhism to Sri Lanka. The president of India accepted the invitation with pleasure.

"The vice president of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan, called on the president of Sri Lanka. Recalling the strong links that have existed between India and Sri Lanka through centuries, the vice president of India expressed the hope that these relations would be further strengthened by the visit of the president of Sri Lanka. The president of Sri Lanka reciprocated these sentiments.

"On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, on 2nd October 1992, the president of Sri Lanka and Mrs. Premadasa laid wreaths at Raj Ghat, the memorial dedicated to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi. Later on the same day, the president of Sri Lanka and Mrs. Premadasa visited Buddha Gaya where the president of Sri Lanka installed a "ranwata" [golden railings] at the Buddha Gaya Temple.

The two leaders noted with satisfaction the outcome of the recent NAM [Nonaligned Movement] summit at Jakarta and reaffirmed the continuing relevance of the Non-aligned Movement in international affairs in terms of the new orientations which the movement initiated there.

The prime minister of India expressed his warm appreciation of the impetus and direction provided by Sri Lanka to further the cause of regional co-operation, during its chairmanship of SAARC. The prime minister of India reiterated India's commitment to the strengthening of SAARC.

The two leaders affirmed the validity of SAARC as a forum for achieving social goals and developing the region's human resource potential, as this, apart from constituting an end in itself, is a vital pre-requisite for development in all other spheres. Keen interest was expressed in the report, currently under preparation, of the independent South Asian commission on poverty alleviation. This report is expected to make important recommendations to the heads of state government of SAARC countries, at the 7th SAARC summit, on alleviation of poverty in South Asia, based upon in-depth studies of diverse experiences of the seven countries in this regard.

"They appreciated the spirit of the resolution adopted recently by the ministerial conference on children in South Asia held at Colombo. They expressed their conviction that the illustrative regional goals identified by the ministers would catalyse and accelerate each country's endeavours to pursue its national plans of action on children.

"Recalling that the Male declaration had proclaimed 1993 as the SAARC Year of Disabled Persons, the two sides affirmed their resolve to promote effective and compassionate policies for the welfare of such persons and to strive to bring them closer to the mainstream of regional development programs.

"The president of Sri Lanka and the prime minister of India noted that the feasibility study commissioned by SAARC to examine the possibilities of establishing a South Asian Development Fund will be completed in the near future for the consideration of the association.

"The two leaders welcomed recent steps taken under SAARC to institute and upgrade cooperation to combat terrorism at the regional level. These measures, they felt, could substantially improve the region's capacity to prevent terrorist activities through precautionary steps including [words indistinct] consultations between concerned authorities and exchange of information, on a need-to-know basis.

"The president of Sri Lanka expressed deep interest in and appreciation about India hosting the first South Asian cultural festival of SAARC countries from October 9 to 24, 1992, and assured the prime minister of India of his country's fullest cooperation in making it a success. While underlining the importance of such events to increase mutual understanding through people-to-people contacts, the two leaders expressed the hope that this festival would be a precursor of similar events to be organised by rotation in all the member states of SAARC leading eventually to spontaneous manifestations of cultural cooperation by the peoples themselves with a minimum of official support. The creation and consolidation of appropriate structures to institutionalise such cooperation was also, in their view, a highly desirable objective to aspire to.

"The two governments noted the guidelines finalised for the recognition by SAARC of apex bodies of national associations in South Asia in various fields of activity and hoped that they would lead to greater interaction among the people of South Asia.

The two leaders agreed on the usefulness of informal meetings between the heads of state/government of the SAARC region.

"Briefing the prime minister of India on the ethnic question, the president of Sri Lanka stressed his government's commitment to devise a peaceful, negotiated settlement involving all the parties concerned. In this context, he pointed out that operations by the security forces in the north, which were necessary for the protection of innocent civilians, would continue. The prime minister of India expressed the hope that a fair and equitable settlement to fulfill the legitimate aspirations of the Tamil community within the framework of a united Sri Lanka would be achieved through the efforts of the Sri Lankan people themselves and by involving all those parties which have eschewed the path of violence.

The two leaders expressed satisfaction over the ongoing return of Sri Lankan refugees to their country. They noted that with the progressive movement towards normalcy and following their meeting in Colombo in December 1991, the return process had gained momentum since January 20, 1992. They agreed to continue cooperation to ensure an early and orderly return of Sri Lankan refugees from India.

The two leaders noted the satisfactory progress with regard to various proposals under the Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission at the level of foreign ministers, which had its first meeting in New Delhi in January 1992. They agreed that both governments would take measures to further increase bilateral cooperation under the auspices of the joint commission. They expressed satisfaction at the fruitful discussions during the second meeting of the sub commission on trade, finance and investment which was held in New Delhi on September 7-8, 1992. They shared the view that with both countries following policies of economic liberalisation, new vistas of commercial and industrial cooperation would emerge. The two leaders expressed happiness at the increasing contacts between the business communities of the two countries, which they hoped, would give further impetus to bilateral trade.

"The president of Sri Lanka and the prime minister of India agreed that the meetings of the other two sub commissions on social, cultural and educational matters and on science and technology may be convened shortly in New Delhi. They also agreed that the next meeting of the joint commission may be held in Colombo in early 1993. The two leaders expressed their confidence that under the auspices of the first ever cultural exchange programme (1992-94) between India and Sri Lanka which was signed in Colombo in October 1991, the traditionally strong cultural links between the two countries would be further strengthened.

"The president of Sri Lanka expressed appreciation for the training facilities extended by the Indian Government for technical and other personnel from Sri Lanka and also various schemes for Sri Lankan students. The two leaders emphasized the importance of interaction between professionals from the two countries in various areas.

"Practical problems faced by fishermen from both countries straying into each other's waters were discussed. The two sides agreed that these cases should be dealt with in a spirit of mutual accommodation and understanding, and in accordance with the established legal procedures.

Temple-Mosque Talks in Delhi Remain Inconclusive

BK0310125492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] The direct talks between the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council] and the All India Babri Masjid Committee in New Delhi today remained inconclusive. The talks will be resumed on the 16th of this month. In a resolution adopted at the end of today's talks, the two sides agreed to consider views and comments on the documents and evidence presented by each other in support of their claim. They agreed that if any fresh evidence is available during the interim period, it can be presented at the next round.

Soon after the meeting, the defense minister, Mr. Sharad Paward, and the minister of state for science and technology, Mr. P.R. Kumaramangalam, said the talks were held in a cordial atmosphere and both the sides expressed their views freely. The leaders of the two sides—Mr. Singhal and Mr. Javed Habib—expressed similar views.

Commentary Hails Resumption of Talks

BK0410085192 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Commentary by Bhaskar Roy of the INDIAN EXPRESS: "Dialogue for a Solution to the Ayodhya Tangle"]

[Text] From the heat and dust of prolonged agitations, the contending parties to the Ayodhya [temple-mosque] dispute have returned to the negotiating table in search of a mutually acceptable solution. The dialogue that began yesterday between the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council, VHP] and the All India Babri Masjid [Mosque] Action Committee [AIBMAC] in the presence of the union home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, certainly marked a new beginning in the quest for a peaceful solution to the vexed tangle.

At a time when the Ayodhya dispute seemed intractable with the standoff continuing between the VHP and the AIBMAC, the resumption of the negotiating process has given rise to new optimism. The credit for bringing the parties to the dispute face to face across the table goes to the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao. Last month, Mr. Rao set the ball rolling by holding separate meetings with the VHP and the AIBMAC leaders. The Ayodhya cell set up in the prime minister's office had collected a huge mass of documents submitted by both parties. It was clear from the beginning that Mr. Rao was keen to revive the dialogue before the expiry of the three- month period for which the VHP had agreed to postpone the work for temple construction in July. Indeed, the popular perception is that a lasting answer to the Babri Masjid-Ram Jamnabhoomi tangle should emanate not from the courtroom but from a dialogue between the Hindu and Muslim leaders on the basis of a give-and-take approach.

The leaders of both VHP and AIBMAC have recognized the prime minister's initiative as a sincere effort. The VHP president, Mr. Vishnu Hari Dalmia told journalists after his meeting with Mr. Rao that the prime minister was making a sincere effort in resolving the Ayodhya dispute. The first-ever dialogue between the VHP and the AIBMAC took place in the early 1991 at the initiative of the Chandra Shekhar government. Taking place in the wake of a series of communal riots, the dialogue had a cooling effect. The present government intended to pick up the thread left by its predecessor. Significantly, all the persons who had participated in the early 1991 negotiations were invited to attend yesterday's meeting. The resolution adopted by the two parties yesterday, agreeing to maintain the public peace and to continue the dialogue, is indeed a step forward in the right direction. The government made it clear that it had no proposals or preconceived views to place before the meeting. In an hour-long meeting with the AIBMAC leaders on Friday evening, the prime minister expressed the optimism that in view of the prevailing congenial atmosphere, it would be possible to resolve the dispute to the satisfaction of both sides.

Iran

National Security Council Meets, Issues Statement

LD0310194992 Tehran IRNA in English 1622 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 3, IRNA—The Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) chaired by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here today reviewed the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, relief aid to the Afghan Muslim people as well as "the suspicious political movements" concerning the Abu Musa island.

After the meeting the council issued a 8-point statement to "clarify some points to the public opinion as well as the neighboring governments." It said:

1 - Since the triumph of the Islamic revolution on February 11, 1979 no aggression has been launched by the Islamic Republic of Iran against any neighbouring countries, and therefore the Islamic Republic of Iran is really astonished at these political and propaganda hue and cry.

2 - The Islamic Republic of Iran attaches particular importance to the stability and tranquility of the Persian Gulf region, and will seriously oppose any move which tends to disturb this stability and tranquility.

3 - The military strength of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as time and again announced and practically shown, is used solely to defend the national interests of the country, and Iran has never intended to use it for expansionism and aggression against others.

4 - The Islamic Republic of Iran considers the Arab and Muslim countries as her brothers, and has always tried to maintain firm and fraternal relations with all Arab and Muslim countries. Good- neighbourly relations and mutual understanding is the sole guarantee to secure the interests of the regional countries. The origin of any sort of discord are the enemies of Islam, and precisely for this very reason and in order to prove its good-will, Iran sent a representative to Abu Dhabi. Iran, therefore, expects her Arab brothers to encounter these plots wisely.

5 - As for the Abu Musa island Iran has no intention to change its policy whatsoever, and it respects the previous agreements. The Islamic Republic of Iran expects the United Arab Emirates as a brotherly and neighborly country to show self-restraint in dealing with mutual issues, and avoid raising empty and unfounded claims, because these arrogance-inspired temptations would not be in Abu Dhabi's interest.

6 - Respecting the national sovereignty of all neighbouring countries, and stressing the good-neighbourly relations, the Islamic Republic of Iran will not accept invasion by any country against its national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and will powerfully and seriously encounter it.

7 - Although putting forward historical claims concerning the Iranian borders is always in Iran's interest, yet Iran never considers it expedient for the regional security. The experience of similar claims by Iraq is a lesson in this regard.

8 - The Islamic Republic Government is ready to have talks on the 1971 agreement without any pre-conditions and in an friendly atmosphere away from any propaganda ballyhoo, in order to settle the question.

Emami-Kashani, Meshkini Deliver Friday Prayers

Emami-Kashani on 'Vice,' 'Arrogance'

LD0210125692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] The politico-ideological Friday prayers rituals were held today with the God-seeking nation participating at venues all over the country. Tehran residents, too, gathered at Tehran University and the surrounding streets and performed Friday prayers led by Ayatollah Emami-Kashani.

During the first sermon, Emami-Kashani explained the principle of propagating virtue and prohibiting vice in Islam. He said: The aspects of the principle of propagating virtue and prohibiting vice are widespread. What is beneficial is a virtue, and what is harmful to Muslims in this world and hereafter is a vice.

Stressing the necessity for uprooting vice in society, he said: It is the principle of propagating virtue and prohibiting vice that builds every aspect of society and turns it into a model in the world.

During the second sermon the clerical member of the Council of Guardians described the motive behind the enmity of world arrogance toward Islam. He said: Arrogance is against the concept of Islam and would resort to any means to wipe it out in the world. The situation in Lebanon, Palestine, and the recent killing of Bosnian Muslims and international bodies' silence about it all stem from enmity toward Islam and Muslims.

Referring to Iran's decisive and fixed position concerning issues of the Islamic world, Emami-Kashani said: Iran favors unity among Islamic countries and believes that Muslim nations must determine their own fate.

Referring to the Abu Musa Island issue, Emami-Kashani stressed Iran's policy of good-neighborly relations. He said: If the Persian Gulf littoral states were aware, they would realize that the recent ballyhoo stems from the policy to create a crisis and is solely in colonialists' interests. He added: Our nation will not yield to bullying and degradation, and Iran's unalterable on Abu Musa Island enjoys the Iranian nation's support.

Meshkini Remarks on Disputed Islands

LD0210214192 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1538 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Second sermon by Ayatollah Meshkini at Qom Friday prayers on 2 October—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] I have to say a few words about political events, the biggest of which concerns the issue recently raised by the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

The UAE claims Abu Musa, Tonb-e Bozorg, and Tonb-e Kuchek and having made such a claim, promulgated it, instead of sitting at a negotiation table to resolve the matter with Iran. From another angle, Arab countries endorsed and sanctioned this claim. And from higher up, the Great Satan said it is happy to see the Arabs united and that it will rush to their aid if necessary.

What is this all about? I will tell you. People have seen in Iran, praise be to God, an established and secure government that is gaining strength and momentum in the world; they have seen a very strong government emerge, praise be to God, which makes life very difficult for them. On the other hand, they witnessed how a government that they boycotted [preceding word in English] and imposed sanctions on in addition to an international arms embargo was visited by the former German Foreign Minister Genscher while we were in the throes of the Iran-Iraq war. On seeing the situation in our country and the situation of the people, he said, contradicting the rest of the world: It is not right that such a big country should be boycotted and weakened by the United States. That is wrong. With that, he corrected the world's misconceptions.

People now see how a big country they blockaded yesterday has emerged from that blockade, praise be to God. They see that this country is signing major contracts with big countries and establishing friendly relations with others.

Special thanks for this are due to our dear brother, His Excellency Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, during whose recent trip the world witnessed how Iran signed contracts and established relations with three big, strong countries. A chill passed through the spine of the United States and its lackeys. It can not bear it; it is finding it truly difficult.

On the other hand, these people are aware that if the Persian Gulf, which is a very sensitive area and the center of the world's black gold, is captured, the world's economic center would also be blocked. The greater part of this Persian Gulf is under Iran's control, from Abadan and Kuwait's borders to Chahbahar's side of the Persian Gulf, all of which is under Iran's control. Abu Musa, Tonb-e Bozorg, and Tonb-e Kuchek all belong to Iran.

These people cannot bear it and have to establish a pretext for something. But they must rest assured that Iran is that very Iran which, praise be to God a thousand times, empty-handed... [changes thought].

Mr. America: Iran was under your control; the Pahlavis were your obedient slaves. You controlled the Iranian Army, Majles, and Iran's oil. The nation owned nothing. [passage omitted]

Say what you want. Say you stand behind the Arabs. We are aware of what the Arabs are doing, unfortunately, because they have been deceived. Either they have been deceived, became avaricious, or are afraid. Today's world depends on money and might; in other words, your dollars and arms. But Iran relies on monotheism, the Creator and the nation's force of faith. [passage omitted].

Our eminent leader made it very clear: Our nation detests the United States. The United States is behind all these atrocities, and the UAE issue is also another American plot. Thus far, praise be to God, we have not been afraid of the United States. Our eminent departed Imam said: The United States cannot do a damn thing. And, praise be to God, it has been proven that the

United States cannot do a damn thing. [chants of "God is Great," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Death to America"].

Your righteousness lies in the fact that your country and your government has told those UAE gentlemen: Let us sit and negotiate. They resort to force. Praise be to God, our nation is strong. Praise be to God, our government is strong, and no one can bully us. [passage omitted]

Reaction to Persian Gulf Islands Dispute Continues

Larijani Warns of West's 'Plot'

LD0210110992 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 2, IRNA—A senior official here today accused the West of plotting to block the way of progress to Islamic Iran by creating tension in the Persian Gulf region.

Mohammad Javad Larijani, Majles deputy and member of the Supreme National Security Council [SNSC], told a large gathering of people here that the "Abu Musa plot" was an attempt by Iran's enemies to distract its attention from the main issues to secondary ones "because, our enemies are afraid of a strong, advanced and developed Iran."

He was referring to the recent row between Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) over the Iranian Persian Gulf islands of Abu Musa, Tonb-e Bozorg, and Tonb-e Kuchek. The UAE, following an incident at Abu Musa Island a few months ago, has suddenly claimed sovereignty over the island, which according to an agreement reached between the two countries in 1971, is under Iran's sovereignty. This has caused a new tension in the region and encouraged foreigners to somehow interfere in the affairs of the region, but Iran is trying to settle the matter peacefully through negotiations with the UAE.

Speaking to Muslim worshippers assembled at Tehran Universty campus and nearby streets, Larijani, who is also advisor to the foreign minister, drew the careful attention of the southern Persian Gulf littoral states to history and warned them against a U.S. plot to sow discord in the region. "If you want security preserved in the region, learn a lesson from what happened to (Iraqi President) Saddam (Husayn)," he advised the regional states.

He said the policy adopted by the Arab states in the Persian Gulf would lead them to destruction and would jeopardize their security. "Because," he said, "experience has proved that Islamic Iran will not allow aggression against its territorial integrity, to any country."

Larijani said the West had engineered the Abu Musa plot with the aim to destroy the facilities of the Muslims and save its own economy and also to check the progress of the Islamic revolution.

"Everyone knows that the Perisan Gulf states are too weak to directly stand against Iran, and in fact it is the West who wants to block the way of progress to Iran through these conspiracies."

He termed the raising of historical claims as a "negative experience" and said Iran had maintained its sovereignty in the region for centuries and therefore "reference to history would only result in loss of face for those who are after clamor and tumult."

The SNSC member said the identity of many regional states was vague and that seventy years ago when many of these countries did not exist geographically, Iran maintained its sovereignty.

The countries of the region have paid money so that the oppressive powers would preserve their security, he said, adding that "but today they have jeopardized their security themselves and have no rational and political justification for this policy."

The Majles deputy mocked at the "fraudulent" claim by the West that they wanted to protect the Persian Gulf states against Iran. "The United States and Britain only want the money of these countries, and there is no difference for them between this sheikh or that sheikh."

Larijani said the Islamic Republic of Iran has so far pursued "a calculated policy"; however, he said, if necessary "we will powerfully defend our territorial integrity and indisputable rights."

Referring to Turkey's decision to release the Iran-bound ship 'Cape Maleas', Larijani said Iran's policy, which is based on honour, wisdom and expediency, had caused everyone to know that they are dealing with a great and powerful government.

A security court in Istanbul on Wednesday ordered the release of the Iran-bound ship nearly one year after she was detained by the Turkish Government while sailing at Bosporus Strait on October 22 last year.

"We do not want tension to spread in the region and spoil lives and properties of Muslims, but we believe that territorial integrity and national soveriegnty of the countries should be respected," he said. He warned that the Muslim world is threatened by shameful plots and mentioned the example of Palestine, where he said the rights of a nation are blatantly denied by the Israeli usurpers. "It is very disgraceful for a group to play into the hands of the arrogant powers under such circumstances."

Elsewhere, he pointed to the West's "cultural onslaught" as another arrogant plot against the Islamic revolution. There are attempts to imply that there is no hope for Iran's progress and development, and that the gap between Iran and advanced countries is too wide to be filled, he said.

The arrogant countries suggest that economic development has a particular culture and that the Islamic culture cannot match advanced technology. "They say a cultural reform should take place, and these are among the perils of the cultural invasion."

Larijani said this plot is not restricted to the territorial and cultural sectors but also includes economic areas. "They (arrogant countries) tell us to sell oil at their price and import what they say and at the price they determine. For example, we should be deprived of our need to nuclear power generators," he added.

Concluding his speech, Larijani said people's support as the strongest pillar for safeguarding the revolution, is among important and constructive tools against the enemy plots. "As long as people's support is there, we should not be worried about the revolution, and the enemy is exactly afraid of this."

Source Says Issue 'About To Be Over'

NC0110144392 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 24 Sep 92 pp 1, 5

[Report from the City Desk]

[Text] Tehran—Iran and the UAE are on the verge of sorting out the "so-called Abu Musa issue, which was created and then highlighted by those who wanted to build a wall of distrust between the Islamic Republic of Iran and its neighbors on the southern side of the Persian Gulf," said a highly placed informed source yesterday.

Talking to the TEHRAN TIMES on condition not be identified by name, he said, "It was a deep-rooted plot with the sole objective of sowing the seeds of discord between Iran and the Persian Gulf Arab states."

He did not go into details as to who was or who were behind the scenes, but said that in recent gatherings of Arab countries, the UAE was put under pressure to act against the Islamic Republic of Iran in a stronger manner.

"But," he said, "you know we have certain sincere friends who blocked the way against such an unfriendly move and so the plot was defused."

He did not elaborate but it is presumed that during the meeting of the Arab League in Cairo certain Arab countries tried to put pressure on the UAE to bring out a stronger proposal against Iran on Abu Musa, Tonb-e Bozorg, and Tonb-e Kuchek.

On the other side, certain Arab media highlighted the issue and printed provocative statements in order to create a broader gulf between Iran and its Arab neighbors.

Without going into details, he further praised the role of Syria and said "that country's role in the so-called crisis was positive."

On the other hand, efforts were also made to provoke Iran into "adventurism," but the wise leadership of Iran, following the policy of noninterference and mutual understanding, tried to make our neighbors realize the facts.

The top officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the enemy-made crisis tried to keep patience and let the neighbors understand that the crisis is in the interest of none.

However, the crisis is about to be over, and Iran is hoping that it could be solved once and for all.

It was decided that Foreign Ministry Director General in charge of Persian Gulf affairs Hojjat ol-Eslam Mostafa Ha'eri-Fumani will go to Abu Dhabi on Sunday to talk with the UAE officials and make them further understand the realities.

President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani clearly said that there is no change in the Iranian policy and that Tehran wants to have cordial relations with the Arab neighbors.

Ha'eri-Fumani, a former ambassador of Iran to the United Arab Emirates, is the most suitable person to go to the UAE capital for face-to-face talks with our friendly and neighboring country's officials to remove misunderstandings, he said.

Qatari, Saudi Border Clashes Draw Reaction

President Sends 'Urgent' Message

JN0310204092 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2005 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Muhammad Sadiq al-Husayni dispatch from Tehran carried within the "Panorama" program]

[Excerpt] Our radio has learned that during the past few hours, Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani sent an urgent message to the amir of Qatar. The Iranian Government did not disclose the contents of this message. Sources close to the government here said that the message is consequential [masiriyah] and extremely important.

Informed sources noted that the message could have contained an Iranian proposal to conclude a joint defense treaty between Iran and the Emirate of Qatar. [passage omitted]

Daily Says 'Secret Hands' Behind Clash

LD0110115392 Tehran IRNA in English 1050 GMT 1 Oct 92

["UAE-Iran commentary: Foreign Hands Sounding Another String for a Chaotic P. Gulf Music"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 1, IRNA—The outbreak of border clashes between Qatar and Saudi Arabia Wednesday is indication of the involvement of secret hands in the region to foment territorial disputes and unrest in the Persian Gulf region for the purpose of creating instability and insecurity.

The latest in the series of military confrontation between Saudi Arabia and Qatar in the wake of territorial disputes between Bahrain and Qatar, and Saudi Arabia and Yemen is the first military confrontation between the two countries since Qatar's independence in 1971.

REUTER quotes a spokesman of the commander in chief of Qatari Armed Forces that in the attack by Saudi troops against Qatar's border outpost two Qatari officers, one of them of Egyptian nationality, had been killed, another one captured and that substantial damage had been inflicted on the outpost.

The clash occurs at a time when the United Arab Emirates, goaded by some countries of the region, has voiced claims on three islands of Iran in the Persian Gulf.

In contrast against the good intentions of Iran the United Arab Emirates has simply offered historical backgrounds and certain other side issues which have crippled the talks between the two countries.

The countries of the region should not forget that claims solely on historical ground can be filed by absolutely any country against any other country which, if really done, will not exclude any one nation. If that should be adopted as the practice, then the biggest losers in the process will be the very small countries which came into being only a few decades ago.

All past experience, however, is proof of the fact that border clashes and claims based on a purely historical precedence in the Persian Gulf are actually directed by invisible hands out of the Persian Gulf. The most important element responsible for such happenings is the avarice of the governments that look to the Persian Gulf as something from which they have a right to benefit, and the political dividends it offers the opportunist governments of the region is a supplementary reason for what is happening in the Persian Gulf.

Why an Egyptian was killed in the clashes between Saudi Arabia and Qatar is a question that even further obscures Egypt's role in the current developments in the Persian Gulf.

Daily Condemns Saudi Use of Force

LD0310103192 Tehran IRNA in English 0901 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 3, IRNA—The 'TEHRAN TIMES' today condemned the Saudi use of force against Qatar and said Iran was ready to defend the regional states against more likely aggressions by the Saudis.

Referring to the Saudi border attacks against Qatar on Wednesday and Thursday, the English daily said that Saudi Arabia has territorial disputes with most of its neighbors and "has for a long time had hegemonistic intentions towards these neighboring countries."

It noted that the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, grouping Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE, Kuwait and Oman, was formed "due to the threat felt by these countries over the wave of Islamic revolutionary thinking and also the widesread propaganda by Iran's enemies over Iran's so-called expansionist ambitions."

"But today it is clear for all that Iran has no avarice or mal-intentions against the territories of other countries: In fact it has been proven that Iran is opposed to any worsening of tensions and crisis in the region, and in principle believes that border disputes should be solved through friendly dialogue."

"Based on this point of view, Iran condemns use of force against the small Muslim country of Qatar. Saudi Arabian expansionist plans to gain hegemony over other countries of the Persian Gulf are rejected by Iran."

It underlined that Iran "prefers that all territorial disputes be resolved peacefully, but if Riyadh has aggressive intentions against regional countries, the littoral states in the southern Persian Gulf should know that Iran will defend them against Saudi aggression."

Believing that the latest Saudi provocation against Qatar may be aimed at boosting the moral of the Saudi Army, which is "suffering from a severe pyschological crisis" in the wake of the Persian Gulf war, the paper said in conclusion "Even if this reasoning is correct, it is still not acceptable for Iran that the Saudi Army should regain its lost morale by using force against a small country like Qatar.

Dailies Blame Saudi Arabia

LD0310135792 Tehran IRNA in English 1345 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] Athens, Oct 3, IRNA—For the first time in weeks, front-page headlines and reports in Arab newspapers Friday shifted from the Abu Musa dispute between Iran and the UAE [United Arab Emirates] to an Arab-Arab territorial conflict.

"Occupation of Qatari territory by a second Saudi attack," read a front-page banner headling of Palestinian daily AL-QUDS Friday. In its editorial, the paper blamed Saudi Arabia for the border incident Thursday in which two Qatari soldiers were killed.

"Saudi Arabia made a mistake in using force against Qatar, both from the viewpoint of manner and timing," AL-QUDS said.

"Who will blame Qatar, whose population does not exceed 300,000, if it appeals for help from a regional power like Iran, or world power like France and the United States," the Arab daily asked.

Saudi daily AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in its front-page lead story said "Saudi Arabia rejects Qatar's decision to annul the border treaty of 1965."

The paper said the exchange of fire took place between bedouin tribes inside Saudi territory that led to the death of two Qataris and one Saudi.

Egyptian newspapers published the news on the incident on their front pages but without comments.

Caspian Sea Organization Holds Session 4 Oct

President Meets With Delegates

LD0410173292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani met with delegate heads participating in the session of the Caspian Sea Organization [CSO]—comprised of Iran's foreign minister and representatives from the republics of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Russia, and Azerbaijan—this morning.

During the meeting, Foreign Minister Velayati, having submitted a report about the two-day CSO session, said: The current session has been convened at Your Excellency's initiative for the purpose of drafting the articles of association proposed by the member states. We hope that the agenda for the second summit session will be drawn up during the next foreign ministerial session.

Later during the meeting, the Russian acting environmental minister praised Iran's philanthropic sentiments and said: The region's sensitive position has increased the importance of establishing greater cooperation among the Caspian Sea littoral states, a factor that could be very effective in terms of preserving a healthy environment in this region. Underlining the need for cooperation among the Caspian Sea littoral states in practical, technical, and economic fields, he thanked Iran for facilitating that cooperation.

The head of the Turkmen Government's environmental committee conveyed the sincere greetings of President Niyazov and described the initiative of our country's president to convene the CSO session as a great mission. He expressed the hope that the current session will achieve optimal results.

The Kazakh representative, having thanked Iran for its special attention to cooperation among the Caspian Sea littoral states, said: We believe that this cooperation will yield many fruitful results in the future, and we thank Iran for taking the initiative to resolve the Caspian Sea problems.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, for his part, having expressed satisfaction with the CSO representative session, said: We consider cooperation in the Caspian Sea axis to be of great importance. The Caspian Sea could be a source of profit and much more effective cooperation for the littoral states: first, due to the sea itself, which is of great value from many angles and enjoys rich resources, providing the littoral states with good transportation possibilities; and second, in view of its influence in maintaining regional peace and security, it could constitute a good axis for tranquillity, peace, and security in the region. Together, we must endeavor to reap the best results from this divine gift by establishing a correct system. We can present the Caspian region to the world as a successful model of friendship and cooperation.

Addressing the heads of the Caspian Sea littoral states' delegations, Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: Fortunately, the world has shown a good response to Iran's proposal about establishing such cooperation, because it attaches great importance to this cooperation. The massive oil and gas reserves around this sea are utilized worldwide. A guarantee of the world's receipt of these reserves depends on our cooperation, which we welcome.

Session Ends; Joint Communique Issued

LD0510101792 Tehran IRNA in English 0939 GMT 5 Oct 92

[Text] Tehran, Oct 5, IRNA—The first session of the senior representatives of the Caspian Sea littoral states ended its work here Sunday night after reaching agreements on several chapters of the draft charter of the Caspian Sea littoral states cooperation organization and issuing a joint communique.

The organization groups Iran, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenia.

In their communique, the representatives of the participating countries in the Tehran session stressed that the Caspian Sea littoral states enjoy long-standing relations. They assessed the formation of the organization, on the initiative of the Islamic Republic, as a "key and fundamental step" towards further rapprochement of the nations of the region.

According to the communique, six committees will be formed to review the legal position of the Caspian Sea, to assess the causes of the rising of the level of the sea waters, to study environment, protection and use of biological resources of the sea, to examine shipping and ports facilities in the Caspian waters, and conduct scientific research on the world's largest inland waters.

The Tehran communique also specified that the next session for adopting the remaining chapters of the charter will be formed prior to the foreign ministerial and summit sessions to be held in Tehran before the end of 1992.

Tajik Culture Minister Vazirov Holds Talks

Meets With President 29 Sep

LD0110161492 Tehran IRNA in English 1741 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 29, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here today expressed deep concern over deaths of innocent people in Tajikistan's clashes and called for an immediate end to bloodshed in that country through peaceful means.

In a meeting with visiting Tajik Minister of Culture Zakirjan Vazirov, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said Tajikistan would enjoy Iran's assistance to set up scientific, educational and communications centers in the republic.

Vazirov, who is here at the invitation of minister of culture and higher education Dr. Mostafa Mo'in-Najafabadi, delivered a letter from his country's acting president Akbarsho Iskandarov and briefed Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the current developments in Tajikistan.

The Tajik official deplored foreign interference in his country's affairs, which he said had led to escalation of unrest in Tajikistan.

He appreciated cooperation and assistance of the Islamic Republic of Iran for setting up educational and academic centers in the republic.

Meets With Velayati

LD0110162592 Tehran IRNA in English 1717 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 29, IRNA—Tajik Minister of Culture Zakirjan Vazirov in a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today said foreign intervention and plots were the major causes of continuation and intensification of clashes in his country.

He also briefed Velayati on the recent developments in Tajikistan, the scope of the clashes, death tolls and damages inflicted on the republic.

Velayati said the Iranian Government seriously and anxiously follows Tajik events and expressed regret over the continuation of the unrest there.

He added that the Islamic Republic would spare no efforts to help find a peaceful solution to the crisis.

The two sides also discussed and exchanged views on the ways to deepen Tehran-Dushanbe relations, especially in cultural fields.

Letters of Understanding Signed With Afghanistan

LD0110160792 Tehran IRNA in English 1501 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 29, IRNA—Iran and Afghanistan on Tuesday signed four letters of understanding on economic, trade, transportation and educational areas. The documents were signed by Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati for Iran and his Afghan counterpart Najibollah Lafraie and director of Afghan acting Minister of Planning Seyyed Mohammad 'Ali Javid.

The two countries have agreed on higher education cooperation, exchange of students and professors and cooperation between libraries in Iran and Afghanistan.

Other elements in the letters of understanding include technical and industrial cooperation, building of roads and airports, and technical education in the area of road building and airport construction.

The Afghans voiced their interest to benefit from Iran's cooperation in the area of mining and supplying of mining equipments, and to get help for completing a cement project in Herat, establishing a company for developing handicrafts, and commissioning light industries.

The Islamic Republic agreed to offer up to dlrs 50 million in credit for supplying the needs of the Afghans, repayment of which is to be arranged by the central banks of the two countries.

Another aspect of the document touched on the ways and means for helping the return home of the Afghan refugees in Iran and the establishment of a trilateral committee comprising Iran, Afghanistan, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The Afghan side will also benefit from Iran's experience in rebuilding agricultural irrigation systems, potable water development systems, rural roads, and animal husbandry.

The two countries also anticipate to cooperate in the area of adult education which is to be undertaken by Iran's literacy movement and Afghan department of education.

Meanwhile Iran's Health Ministry is also to offer medicines and surgical equipments to Afghanistan.

U.S. Position on Submarine Purchase Criticized

NC0310120292 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 27 Sep 92 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "The United States and Futile Blackmail"]

[Text] During his meeting with the Russian foreign minister, Acting U.S. Secretary of State Eagleburger expressed concern over the sale of three Russian submarines to Iran and said that Iran's access to these submarines will upset the balance of power in the Persian Gulf. In this regard, Russian Deputy Foreign Secretary Valdimir Yakhumov is cited as saying that Russia has postponed the delivery of these submarines in view of financial disputes over payment for equipment installed in these submarines.

Since a few weeks ago, the U.S. media have been publishing various reports in a bid to intensify a news blackmail and to prevent the Russians from delivering these submarines to Iran. These submarines, which are considered part of Iran's program for defending the country and are of a defensive nature, are not—according to military experts—considered to have any kind of offensive threat. But within the framework of its anti-Islamic Republic policy, the United States is resorting to all kinds of ploys in order to further tighten the arms sanctions squeeze on Iran. This specific U.S. policy, which is being pursued in the framework of the plan for the disarmament of Middle Eastern countries, is a pretext solely aimed at putting Iran under pressure. A Russian Trade Ministry spokesman, who expressed surprise over occasional U.S. comments about the sale of arms to Middle East countries, said in regard to Eagleburger's statement that this is not the first time that Washington has expressed its concern over the sale of arms to Iran. He said: Moscow sells only defensive weapons to its foreign customers. This is business, and it is the only field in which Moscow can compete with the Western countries.

As for the U.S. commotion over Iran's defensive weapon purchases, it is necessary to note that with this fuss, the United States is pursuing specific objectives. But Iran will definitely not give in to this blackmail, even though the Moscow government has apparently been influenced by this blackmail due to its weaknesses that stem from its domestic problems and—by postponing the delivery of these submarines to Iran on the pretext of financial problems—its desire to gain the favors of the U.S. officials. In their extremely perceptible concordance with the U.S. press, the British mass media are also trying to obstruct Iran's relations with various countries. The British press have started a commotion in a bid to portray the purchase of the three submarines—which is an ordinary issue—as a major regional threat and a strategic shift in the balance of power in the Persian Gulf. But clearly, these blackmail tactics, which are similar to the brouhaha that was created over Iran's purchases of nuclear reactors from Russia and China, are baseless. By increasing its pressure on China, the United States recently tried to pursue a similar policy and the sale of advanced antisubmarine helicopters to Taiwan, which was met with China's strong reaction was part of these attempts.

Iran is the largest regional country in the Persian Gulf. It has the necessary defensive capabilities to safeguard its borders, and it relies on its people's backing and strength in defending itself. Repairing and reconstructing defensive weapons form part of Iran's strategy and concern no one but Iran. Any country has the right to meet its defensive demands. By adopting such hostile and unjustifiable policies, the United States and Britain are actually trying to fulfill their objective of creating a crisis in the region. But Iran has identified these policies and is sufficiently alert to confront them. What is important in relation to this issue are the two-pronged objectives of the United States, which will not apply only to Iran. By placing Russia under pressure, the United States actually wants to display the extent of influence that it has on Russia and prevent it from adopting independent policies. After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Russia has been facing acute economic problems, and the Western press is pretending that a solution of these problems depends on whether the West, especially the United States, want to solve them or not. Now, with the passage of time, it has become evident that the United States does not have any intention to extend basic assistance to Russia to help it solve its economic problems, and that it is exploiting the situation in order to fulfill its long- term goal of establishing full domination over Russia. These approaches actually pave the way for fulfillment of the belief that Russia should observe Washington's views in anything it intends to do.

After his meeting with Eagleburger, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev rejected the view that Russia's sale of submarines to Iran is threatening and said: This transaction cannot destabilize the regional situation.

For years, the United States has been selling arms to Persian Gulf countries and has turned these small states into an arsenal. By sending its modern fleet to the Persian Gulf, it turned the Persian Gulf into a graveyard of advanced weapons. Thus, it is clear that the recent U.S. remarks are only a type of demagoguery and blackmail and that it puts forth such issues only in order to achieve its political objectives.... [ellipses as published]

UK Criticism Decried

LD0110170992 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 1, IRNA—The British-orchestrated controversy over the purchase of Russian submarines by Iran may open the eyes of Iranian policymakers who favor maintaining even the lowest level of relations with Britain, 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' commented Thursday.

The English-language paper said in its weekly edition that "though we have sincerely tried to focus attention on how to build and maintain normal relations with peoples and friendly governments and at the same time leave unfriendly states alone...the British seem to dislike this attitude."

Last week British Defense Secretary Malcolm Rifkind, touring the Persian Gulf, condemned Tehran's recent purchase of submarines from Russia.

"The British are traditionally understood to be notorious manipulators of regional tensions, more so if Muslims are involved and in some way could affect their so-called interests."

Stressing that British politicians are "troublemakers not peacemakers," the commentary said "the region's Arab capitals are well aware of British craftiness, but understandably prefer to toe London's line when it comes to safeguarding their frontiers."

Underlining that Rifkind's furor over Iran's submarines was directly related to the U.K.'s sluggish arms market, the paper believed, "had it been otherwise London would not stretch its diplomatic standing to the extreme by condemning Iran for buying the armaments it is so keen on selling to the Arabs."

Noting that the big powers are selling arms to the regional countries, it said "Britain is also selling defensive and offensive military equipment to the region but not as much as it would like to."

"Would the British anxiety disappear if the subs and other defense equipment ordered by Iran was non-Russian? Possibly not."

"As Britain, and to a considerable extent the U.S. make sure that cheap arms from Russia and other former Soviet republics do not seriously threaten their 'traditional markets,' they will continue to make exaggerated statements about Iran and its military buildup."

"Whenever Iran has tried to get closer to its northern neighbour for well-known reasons, the U.K. has gone out of its way to create hurdles and stop the process. It will surely not be in Moscow's interest if the interference over the kilo-class 239-foot (70-meter) diesel patrol vessels reaches the point of no-return."

"Despite major upheavals between Tehran-Moscow relations after the 1979 Islamic revolution, Iran has maintained a normal working relation with the former superpower. It is based on this criteria and the increasing Western military influence in this strategic region that Russia's leaders should assess the quality of their ties with the Islamic Republic," the commentary concluded.

'Fresh Momentum' in Turkish-Iranian Ties Viewed

LD0110153192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1045 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Cape Maleas was released on the eve of Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel's visit to Iran. The Cypriot ship, which was carrying cargo to Iran, was seized in Mehr [beginning 23 Oct 1991] while crossing the Bosporus Strait. Turkish security and judicial authorities seized the ship on charges of smuggling goods for Kurdish rebels. The ship's cargo was seized and her captain imprisoned in accordance with the ruling of a lower court.

Following the seizure of the ship, Iran repeatedly presented documents to the court about the ship's destination and the cargo's ownership. Eventually, thanks to the diplomatic efforts of both sides and valid documents, a Turkish court of appeals declared the seizure of the Cape Maleas unlawful and ordered its release.

The release of the Cape Maleas is a step toward removing the obstacles in the way of further improving Tehran-Ankara ties. The issue of the ship cast a long shadow on mutual ties last year. With the release of the ship and Mr. Demirel's trip to Tehran, Turkish- Iranian relations are expected to gain fresh momentum.

Last month, the Turkish interior minister came to Tehran and removed many existing ambiguities during his talks with Iranian political and security officials. That trip paved the way for security cooperation between the two countries, and the series of consultations that are to take place between 10-person delegations from both countries will resolve many problems and disputes. Improving Turkish-Iranian relations is not only beneficial to both countries but also to the troubled Middle East region.

The existing problems in ties between both countries are no more than those between any two large countries. Through goodwill from both sides, good-neighborly relations between these two large and determining countries in the region are expected to continue indefinitely. Mr. Demirel's visit to Tehran is the first during his new term as prime minister and, in addition to bringing previous agreements to fruition, talks between top officials from both countries could pave the way for improving and deepening mutual ties.

Pakistan

China Offers Nuclear Plant Without Precondition

BK0510093092 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 5 Oct 92 p 12

[Text] Lahore—China has offered Pakistan a 300 MW (megawatt) nuclear power plant without setting any precondition to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). This was disclosed by the Chairman Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), Dr Ishfaq Ahmed, while talking to the journalists after the inauguration of National Course in Uranium Geology and Exploration at the Atomic Energy Minerals Centre Lahore on Sunday.

Dr Ishfaq told newsmen that Beijing has told Islamabad that the signing of the NPT is Pakistan's internal concern. The plant is likely to be operational by 1998, he informed. Pakistan would be acquiring more reactors from China in the future, he said.

Other countries are also willing to provide nuclear reactors for power generation but want Pakistan to sign NPT before entering into any such deal. However, he told the audience that Pakistan is on its way to self-reliance in the field of nuclear energy and would be able to build up its own reactors in the near future.

Dr Ishfaq said worldwide interest in nuclear energy has shown resurgence now after a short lean period.

Earlier, during his inaugural address the PAEC chief said Pakistani scientists would modify the Karachi nuclear power plant on their own and try to extend its life till the first decade of the next century. "By that time we would have acquired and developed additional reactors to meet our energy needs."

Stressing that there can be no development without energy, he advocated variegated modes of power generation instead of confining to only one form of energy production. "Suppose the supply of uranium gets restricted it would be a catastrophe to depend exclusively on nuclear plants in such a situation."

He also emphasised the check on Green House Effect. If its growth is not arrested, it will have adverse effects on ecology, he added.

Talking about the New World Order, he expressed the hope that it would be fair to all the regions and countries of the world. "If the old way of thinking persists, the world is likely to split once again into haves and have nots."

Dr Ishfaq said, "while taking into consideration the three E's—Energy, Economics and Environment we should also concentrate on three F's—Fast forwarding to the Future."

Dr Younes Mughal, Director Atomic Energy Minerals Centre, told the audience that with International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) help Pakistan has been able to discover fresh and greater reserves of Uranium in the Bannu Basin. He told the participants that IAEA was helping Pakistan in incorporating new techniques in the field of nuclear energy, "which will help us meet our future energy needs."

He informed Pakistani and Iranian participants of the course would receive instructions from highly qualified instructors from France, Canada, Italy and Germany.

Addressing the seminar, Daniel Faure, Course Coordinator of IAEA, said the Uranium cannot be explored without the proper knowledge of Geology.

PAEC Chairman Cited on Nuclear Self-Sufficiency

BK0410153892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1511 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] ISLAMABAD, Oct 4 (AFP)—Pakistan plans to develop its own nuclear reactors to generate enough energy to achieve self-sufficiency, the chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) said Sunday.

Ashfaq Ahmad made his remarks in a speech to participants in a 22-day course on uranium geology and exploration in Lahore, organized with the cooperation of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Pakistan now has a 90 megawatt nuclear power station, supplied by Canada some three decades ago, in the port city of Karachi in the southern province of Sindh.

A second nuclear power station of 300 megawatts is being built by China in the Punjab province under an agreement signed last year.

Ahmad said the PAEC would make certain changes to the Karachi reactor to keep it operative for another decade.

Earlier, a PAEC official said Pakistani geologists had found uranium deposits near Dera Ghazi Khan in Punjab and also near Bannu in the North West Frontier Province.

He said the finds would help the country achieve self-sufficiency in uranium.

Pakistan is known to have acquired the know-how and technolgy to enrich uranium.

Kanjoo Meets With Butrus-Ghali on Kashmir

BK0210104292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, has expressed dismay over the nonimplementation of UN Security Council resolutions on Kashmir. He expressed dismay during a meeting with the UN secretary general, Mr. Butrus-Ghali, in New York. He briefed the UN chief on the prevailing situation in held Kashmir, especially the large-scale atrocities being committed against the Kashmiri people by Indian occupation forces. Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo explained the efforts made by Pakistan to engage India in a constructive and meaningful dialogue for a negotiated settlement of the Kashmir issue. He hoped that the secretary general would play his due role in promoting a peaceful settlement of the dispute.

The secretary general expressed his understanding of Pakistan's point of view and assured the minister of state for foreign affairs that he would do everything possible within the framework of the UN Charter to encourage a forward movement toward the resolution of the Kashmir dispute.

The minister of state for foreign affairs also presided over the 16th annual ministerial meeting of the Group of 77. In his speech he called for reforming the international economic system to enable the developing countries to improve the socioeconomic conditions of their masses.

Pact With Russia To Upgrade Ties, Increase Trade

BK0210123692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] Pakistan and the Russian Federation have agreed to upgrade and build a new, strong, and multidimensional relationship. This was stated by the secretary general, foreign affairs, Mr. Akram Zaki, on his return to Islamabad this afternoon after talks with Russian leaders in Moscow. Mr. Akram Zaki said they agreed on the text of a declaration enshrining principles of their new relationship. He said a Russian delegation will visit Pakistan this month to conclude three agreements relating to setting up of a joint economic commission, trade, and details of Russian participation in the upgradation of the Pakistan Steel. About Kashmir, the secretary general said the Russian Federation expressed its concern over violation of human rights in occupied Kashmir.

Army Chief: Soldiers To Remain in Sindh If Asked

BK0510093092 Islamabad THE NATION in English 5 Oct 92 p 12

[Text] Islamabad—Confirming the withdrawal of the Army from Sindh, Chief of Army Staff [COAS] Gen Asif Nawaz said here on Sunday that the Army has conveyed to the government that the fixed time period of six months stipulated for completing the operation against dacoits and other anti-social elements in Sindh is almost expired so the government should not be hard pressed in deciding whether to keep the army further engaged in the province.

The COAS said that they have informed the government of their withdrawal decision beforehand so that the Army should have ample time to "pack up".

The COAS was talking with newsmen at the German Embassy where he had gone to attend a function hosted to celebrate the unification of Germany on Sunday evening. He said that if the government asked the army to remain in Sindh to further assist the provincial government in its drive against criminals, it would be their own discretionary decison as the Army has provided an opportunity to them to decide by informing them three weeks before the expiry of 6-month time period.

Replying to a question he said that he was fully satisfied with the performance of the Army in Sindh as 80 per cent of criminals had been eliminated.

Submarine Rebuild Complex Plan Approved

BK0510090192 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 5 Oct 92

[Text] A project has been approved for the construction of a submarine rebuild complex. This was stated by the federal minister for defense production, Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani, while replying to a question of Mr. Wasim Ahmad in the National Assembly today. He said there is a proposal to construct this complex at Ormara. The minister of state for communications, Mr. Mohammad Azam Khan Hoti, in reply to a question by Rai Mansab Ali Khan, told the house that 1 billion rupees has been released by the government for the restoration of highways damaged by rains and floods in all the four provinces. Later, the house resumed discussion on the situation arising out of the recent rains and floods in the country.

Sri Lanka

Security Forces Conduct Operations Against LTTE

Offensive Launched in Mannar District

BK0110114892 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] The security forces launched a major offensive against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists at dawn yesterday at the Mannar District. The operation is named Shighrakara. Troops, having advanced about 8 km, have captured Adampan and Nandankulam. Three LTTE camps close to Adampan were also captured during the operation. Fleeing terrorists were engaged by the advancing troops. Infantry, supported by armor, artillery, and air, are taking part in the operation. [sentence as heard]. The headquarters of the Joint Operation Command [JOC] reported that the LTTE casualties cannot be confirmed at present. During the fighting, one was killed and four were injured. Troops at present are consolidating in the Adampan and Nandankulam areas, according to the JOC. Operations will continue.

Wanni Headquarters Said Destroyed

BK2809135592 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1142 GMT 28 Sep 92

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 28 Sep (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lankan security forces Monday hit back hard at the LTTE following an abortive attack on four forward bunkers at Welioya in Sri Lanka's northern Mullaitivu District Monday morning.

General Hamilton Wanasinghe told LANKAPUVATH this afternoon that nine soldiers had been killed when the LTTE had attacked the security forces' bunkers.

However, the security forces had reached swiftly and hit back hard at the terrorists, causing many casualties.

Meanwhile, official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the 14-base area which includes the Wanni headquarters of the LTTE leader Prabhakaran had been earlier destroyed by the security forces.

The sources said that Prabhakaran, the LTTE leader, who is now reported moving around the Wanni area along with his lieutenant Kittu, alias Sathasivam Krishnakumar, who has smuggled himself into northern Sri Lanka after being kicked out of the UK and the Switzerland, is making desparate attempts to mobilise the Wanni youth to try to recapture the bases at Welioya.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the LTTE is in an unenviable predicament as a result of the security forces effectively blocking the Sanguppidy ferry at Pooneryn where over 600 cadres had been forced into service, while at the same time making abortive attempts to regain lost bases at Welioya.

Security force sources told LANKAPUVATH that the LTTE, with its morale in tatters and over 1,000 cadres deserting the ranks during the last two months, in addition to effective offensives being carried out in the northeast to neutralize the terrorists, was making a vain last ditch attempt.

Five LTTE 'Terrorists' Killed 4 Oct

BK0510110592 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1021 GMT 5 Oct 92

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 5 (LANKAPUVATH)—Five LTTE terrorists, including a leader, were killed Sunday [4 October] by the Sri Lankan Security Forces in the Eastern Batticaloa District.

The joint operations command told LANKAPUVATH that the troops ambushed an LTTE convoy involved in logistic supplies at Unnichchi around 1515 hours local time killing the terrorists. Troops later recovered two hand grenades, one tractor, five barrels of petrol, four 25-litre cans of kerosene, 40 sarongs [Sri Lankan traditional dress], 20 bags of sugar and 28 bags of flour, the sources said.

Meanwhile, the bridge at Thamparaweli on Siththandy-Badulla road in the same district was slightly damaged, when a booby-trapped landmine exploded around 0730 hours local time Sunday, the sources said.

Six LTTE Boats Attacked

BK0410114392 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] Sri Lanka's Navy scored one of its biggest hits when naval craft intercepted six LTTE craft carrying stores escorted by two machine gun-mounted fast boats. Naval sources said that in the ensuing fierce firefight lasting nearly an hour, five of the stores' craft and an escort boat were sunk by two naval craft which engaged the enemy. The other escort craft, fitted with two powerful outboard motors, had escaped. Navy Commander Vice Admiral Clancy Fernando, who confirmed the successful operation Saturday night, said a terrorist from one of the sunken vehicles was captured by the Navy. He attributed the Navy's success in sinking a number of Tiger craft in recent days to junior officers commanding even smaller craft and taking the (?fight) to the enemy. Admiral Fernando said he had personally congratulated his men responsible for these successes.

LTTE Guerrillas Seize Military Hardware

BK0410072492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0626 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] Colombo, Oct 4 (AFP)—Tamil Tiger guerrillas seized their biggest single haul of military hardware yet in a fierce offensive on the army's forward defences in northern Sri Lanka, military sources said here Sunday.

A large force of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas on Friday ransacked the entire armoury at a small camp near the main Elephant Pass base in Jaffna peninsula, they said.

But the sources denied the LTTE claim that it had destroyed the Kaddaikadu camp, one of several small military bases straddling a large stretch of land between the Elephant Pass army garrison and the vital Vettilaikerni beachead to its east.

"This is the single biggest loss of weapons since the war against the Tigers resumed in June 1990. Our men fought back bravely but could not prevent the Tigers from removing the arms and ammunition," a military source said.

The Sunday Times here reported that the government had ordered a full-scale investigation into the attack and estimated the LTTE haul removed during a five-hour period was worth 50 million rupees (about 1.1 million dollars).

"If the investigations show any lapse on the part of those responsible, court martial proceedings will be initiated against them," the newspaper quoted a high-ranking defence source as saying.

Military sources said that 12 soldiers were killed and about 25 seriously wounded in the attack but troop reinforcements regained the army positions and killed about "15 to 20" Tiger guerrillas.

The LTTE, in a statement issued by its London office on Saturday, said its fighters captured the armoury and killed more than 20 soldiers and lost 14 men in the pre-dawn attack on Kaddaikadu.

Among the weapons seized were a 50 anti-aircraft gun, two light machine guns, a general purpose machine gun, a mortar launcher, a rocket-propelled grenade launcher and 180 Belgian-made automatic weapons, the sources said.

The LTTE guerrillas, who also removed large stocks of grenades, 280 rockets and nearly 300,000 rounds of various other types of ammunition, drove away with their booty in two military vehicles seized from the camp.

One of them was the camp commanding officer's vehicle with its powerful radio communications equipment intact. Troops have been placed on extra alert following the incident in the LTTE-controlled peninsula, sources said.

The LTTE has stepped up its attack on security forces in recent weeks and military analysts here said the rebel's frequent strikes on the army's forward defences were aimed at capturing much-needed weapons and breaking army morale.

The Indian government's crackdown on LTTE activists in southern Tamil Nadu state in the wake of the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in May 1991 has severely reduced the LTTE's arms supply.

Before Gandhi's killing which Indian police blamed on the LTTE, the guerrillas had unimpeded access to the sea route separating northern Sri Lanka and southern India where the Tigers had several bases.

In September alone, LTTE guerrillas killed 103 security personnel, one of the highest military losses for a single month. In the first two days of October, the Tigers killed 17 soldiers in two separate attacks.

The LTTE has vowed to drive government troops from the northeast and set up an independent homeland called Eelam for Sri Lanka's two million minority Tamil community which is concentrated in the region.

Editorial Condemns Secessionist Demand in South

BK2909105892 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 19 Sep 92 p 8

[Editorial:"No, not just a lunatic fringe"]

[Text] We, in Sri Lanka, must not yield to the temptation of regarding the antics of people like Dr. S. Ramdoss of the Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK—Poor People's Party) and his friends like P. Nedumaran who have been arrested in Tamil Nadu yesterday as mere clowning by the lunatic fringe. These people do command some degree of support in the Tamil-speaking areas of South India and they are attempting to project Velupillai Prabhakaran in Tamil Nadu as the saviour of the Tamils.

The Indian authorities are obviously taking what they regard to be the seditious acts of groups like the PMK very seriously. That is why there was a state-wide sweep yesterday when hundreds of PMK and Tamil National Movement (TNM) activists were arrested. Our Madras correspondent faxed us yesterday morning saying over 340 persons had been taken in Chengalpattu District alone and figures from other districts had not then come in at the time he filed.

The entire Tamil Nadu police force had been placed on alert to prevent any possible eruption of violence as a result of the sweep. That clearly suggests that the Indian authorities are not under- estimating the trouble-making potential of groups threatening the integrity of the Indian Union. The PMK, TNM and some twenty other groups are, according to our correspondent in Madras, openly demanding the grant of "self-determination" to Indian ethnic groups, especially the Tamils.

What concerns us most is that they are supporting the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and their slogans include not just the demand for the secession of Tamil Nadu from the rest of India but the creation of a Tamil Eelam here in Sri Lanka. In the words of our correspondent, Prabhakaran is being held as a "beacon of hope for the suppressed Tamils of the world" including, of course, both Sri Lanka and India.

Dhanu, the suicide bomber responsible for the Rajiv Gandhi assassination, is being presented as a "martyr" while Gandhi himself is being called a traitor. Portraits of Prabhakaran have been paraded on Tamil Nadu streets and although mainstream Indian leaders are not publicly taking the more extreme positions, the lunatic fringe has been able to persuade respected figures like former Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh and some senior members of the Janata Dal to participate in a public meeting they organised.

Our correspondent has reported that Harijan leader Prakash Ambedkar had a seat on that platform. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's name is well known here not only for the leadership he gave the Harijans but also his successful endeavours to convert them to Buddhism. While it would not be unreasonable to conclude that the participation of leaders like V.P. Singh and Ram Vilas Paswan at this meeting does not mean that the Janata Dal is going all the way with the Tamil extremists, it is certainly a clear indicator that overall political interests can lead to all kinds of tie-ups that will not be in the best interests of either a united India or a united Sri Lanka.

History has shown us that certain forces which have been ridiculed at their conception have later assumed monster proportions. The LTTE was able to become what it is largely as a result of the Indian connection. Separatism in Sri Lanka has long been part of Tamil Nadu politics and the hands of the Indian centre too have not been clean in the creation of the LTTE monster. While we ourselves cannot altogether disown responsibility for alienating some of our Tamil minority, enabling the creation of conditions to fuel an insurrection that has grown into a full-blown civil war, an Indian factor will always exist in this troubled equation.

Rajiv Gandhi, tragically, was destroyed by forces that India herself had helped create. Indo-Lankan relations that had once plummeted to dismal depths have improved substantially in recent times with both countries now having a very real interest in containing, if not eliminating, the Tigers. The blockade of the Palk Strait by the navies of both countries has substantially reduced the LTTE's capability of running men and arms from the South Indian coast to North Sri Lanka. The blockade, of course, is not total in that a not inconsiderable fuel smuggling continues.

We must always remember that India is a democracy and it is possible for various forces including those that are inimical to India's own national interest, to function in a democracy. Checks and balances do exist and the sweep in Tamil Nadu yesterday against seditious groups is one manifestation of that. An anti-LTTE Jayalalitha, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, is today aligned to a Congress-I government in New Delhi which is convinced that the LTTE murdered Rajiv Gandhi.

That is all to the good as far as we in Sri Lanka are concerned. But we must be ever conscious of the impermanence of such factors and the possibility of new alliances and groupings. The LTTE is probably spending money in India today in an effort to recoup its losses in Tamil Nadu particularly and in India more generally. Success in that endeavour will certainly not be in our national interest.